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# Princes Chandanbala





# PRINCESS CHANDANBALA

(10)

Human race's experience of thousands of years tells us that there is a vicious cycle of the spring and an autumn in the life similar to the seasonal cycles. Ups-downs and pleasure-sorrow are attached to the human being like his shadow. Pleasure followed by sorrow and sorrow followed by pleasure are continuing in regular succession similar to day and night in the world. And it'll keep on continuing.

In this cycle of pleasure-sorrow and up-down, the hunam who balances himself and moves ahead towards his objective makes history in the world and is counted in the row of great people.

Princess Chandanbala's life is a strange and thrilling story which revolves around the up-down of the life. Either reading or hearing her story also touches heart very much. The surprise in this live tearful story is that tears only changed the direction of her life. Bhagwan Mahavir's sight turned her tears into pearls and made it immortal in the history.

Chandana was born in the royal family of Champa. Childhood passed with the happiness but while passing through youth, a royal female swan who was swimming in the happiness was trapped in lots of sorrow.

The princess of Champa was auctioned in the maid market of Kaushambi as a maid. She stayed in an unknown house as a nameless person and served there as a maid. The scissor of envy and jealousy not only cut her hair but also cut her life into pieces. She remained in the dark room hungry and thirsty for three days with handcuffs and chain in the feet. Severe physical and mental tortures tested her patience but she kept quiet in all the situations. She neither blamed anyone nor shed tears on her bad luck. She observed the play of her fate-cycle with balance. And a day came when compassionate Bhagwan Mahavir came to Chandana's door. Chandana's sorrows ended. The female's self respect was awakened and the Princess Chandana who had become maid, became the leader of the biggest shramani sangh of Bhagwan Mahavir and showed the path of female's welfare to the world.

This brave and touchy life story of the Princess Chandanbala is written by Vidushi Sadhvi Dr. Saritaji Mahasatiji.

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# PRINCESS CHANDANBALA



Princess Vasumati, daughter of the King Dadhivahani and the Queen Dharini of Champa city was sitting in the royal garden worrying about the dream she saw last night.

Seeing her worried a maidservant went to the Queen-



The king and the queen on hearing this came to the garden to see Vasumati.





Vasumati stood up and bowed down to the king when she saw them coming. Mother asked-

Daughter! What's the problem? Why are you sad?

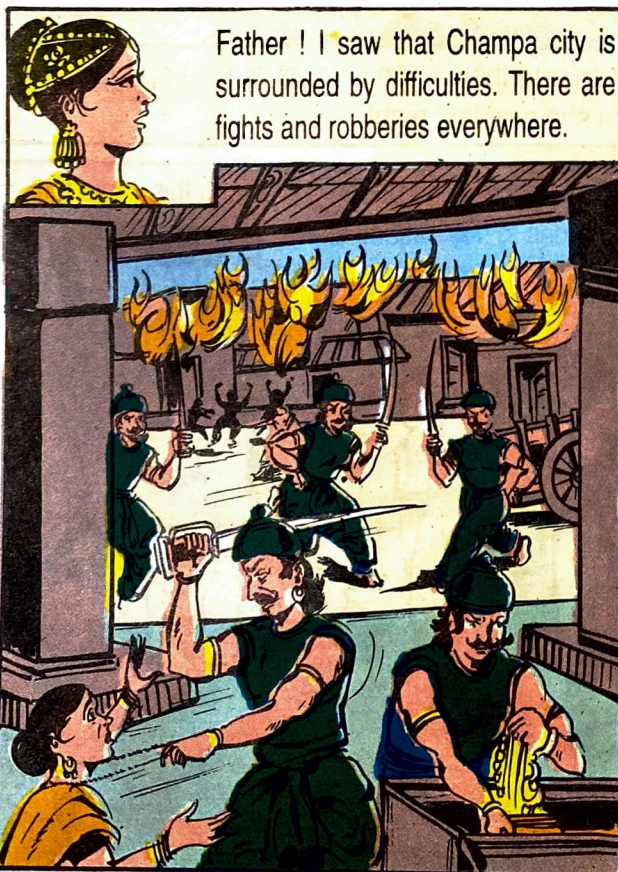
Mother, I saw a very frightful dream in the last part of the night.



Daughter, What did you see?



Father ! I saw that Champa city is surrounded by difficulties. There are fights and robberies everywhere.



Then a border guard came to the garden and informed-

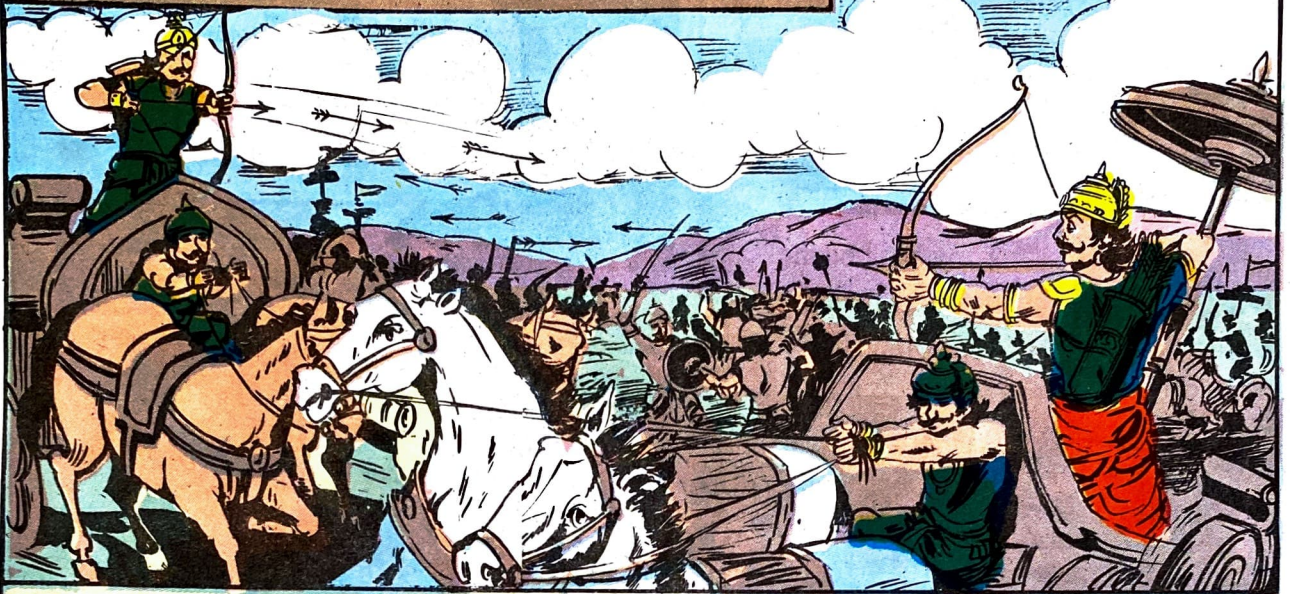
Your Majesty! Kaushambi's army has attacked our kingdom.



King was worried on hearing the news. He immediately ordered his army to get ready for the war.

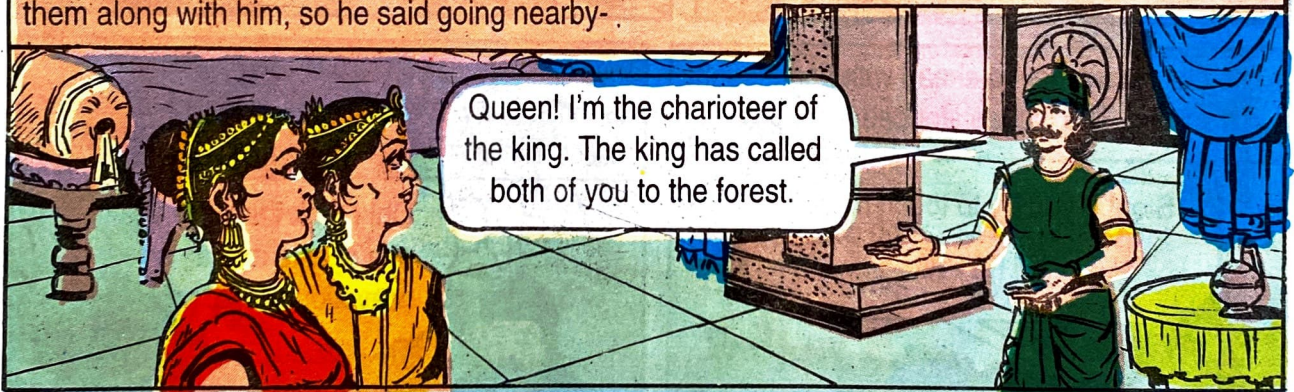


Champa's army fought with Kaushambi's army with their best efforts.



But couldn't stand in front of Kaushambi's army and lost the war. Dadhivahan, King of the Champa also disappeared in the war. Kaushambi's army took hold over Champa and started stealing and robbing.

One soldier entered the palace with the aim of robbing. Then he saw the Queen and the princess Vasumati. He was moved looking at their beauty. He immediately thought of an excuse to take them along with him, so he said going nearby-



He took both of them and moved towards the forest.





He stopped the chariot in the middle of the deep forest. After both of them got down from the chariot, he told the queen-

Oh beautiful ! I want to marry you.

Oh ! You can't be the charioteer of the King. Who are you?

I'm a soldier of Kaushambi city. I'll take both of you with me and I'll marry you.

The charioteer moved ahead with bad thought in his mind. The Queen stopped him.

Stop! If you try to touch me, I'll kill myself.

The charioteer laughed with cruelty and tried to harass the Queen. Then to protect her character, the Queen committed suicide by pulling her tongue.

The charioteer was shocked to see the Queen dead. His inner soul was awakened. He repented for his bad actions. He hated himself.

Oh! I took the life of a chaste and a devotional wife.



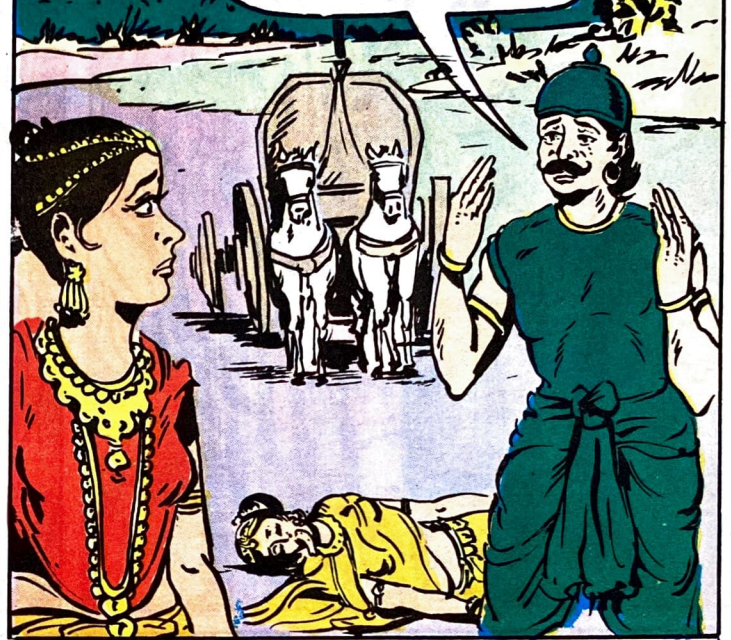
Vasumati standing nearby told charioteer-

Listen brother! I'm very much disappointed looking at your cruelty. I'm also accepting death to protect my character.



On hearing this the charioteer's eyes were filled with tears.

Daughter! Your mother's sacrifice has awakened my soul. Now I won't do any bad thing. Please believe me.



You're devil just a minute before. How'll I believe you?

Daughter, Please don't tell that! Keep faith in me. I can do anything to make you believe.



Vasumati saw that the charioteer is really repenting. Then she said-

Please don't cry. If you take me as your daughter, I won't die.



Hearing this the charioteer felt relieved. He made Vasumati his daughter and he became her Dharma father.

After saying this much, the charioteer started crying.



After that they collected dry sticks from the forest and performed Queen's funeral.



The charioteer took Vasumati in the chariot and moved towards his home at Kaushambi. On the way Vasumati told charioteer-



Father! There is a request, please do not disclose my identity to anyone.

As the charioteer reached home, his wife came out. Seeing Vasumati with her husband, she said-



Who is she? Why has she come with you?

As we have no child, I brought her as our daughter.

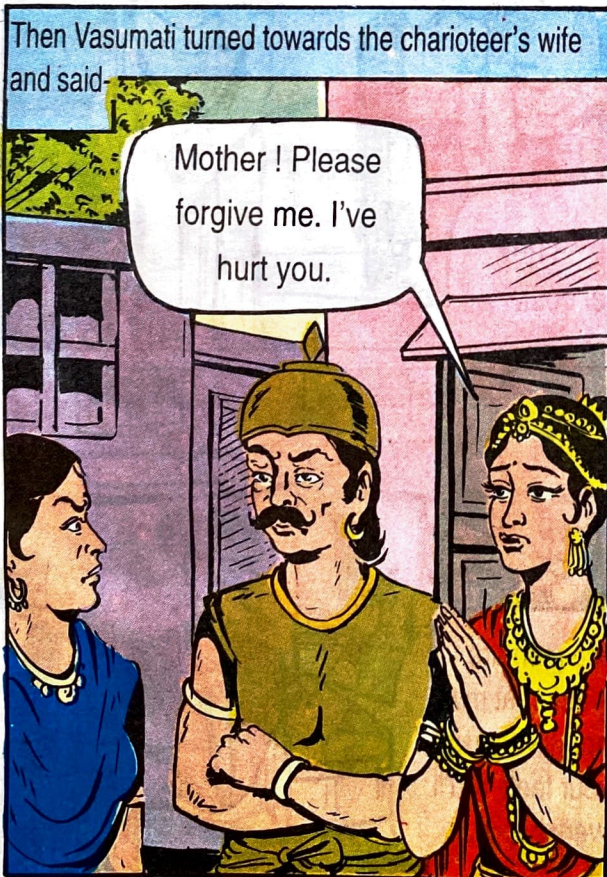
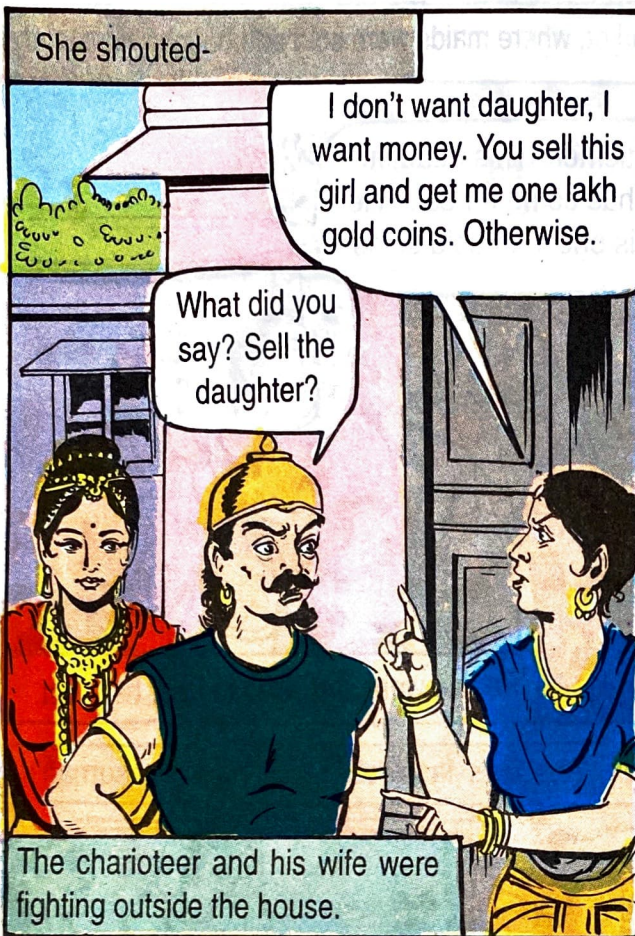
The charioteer's wife was very angry on hearing this-



All the soldiers attending war have returned with lots of wealth. How much money have you brought?

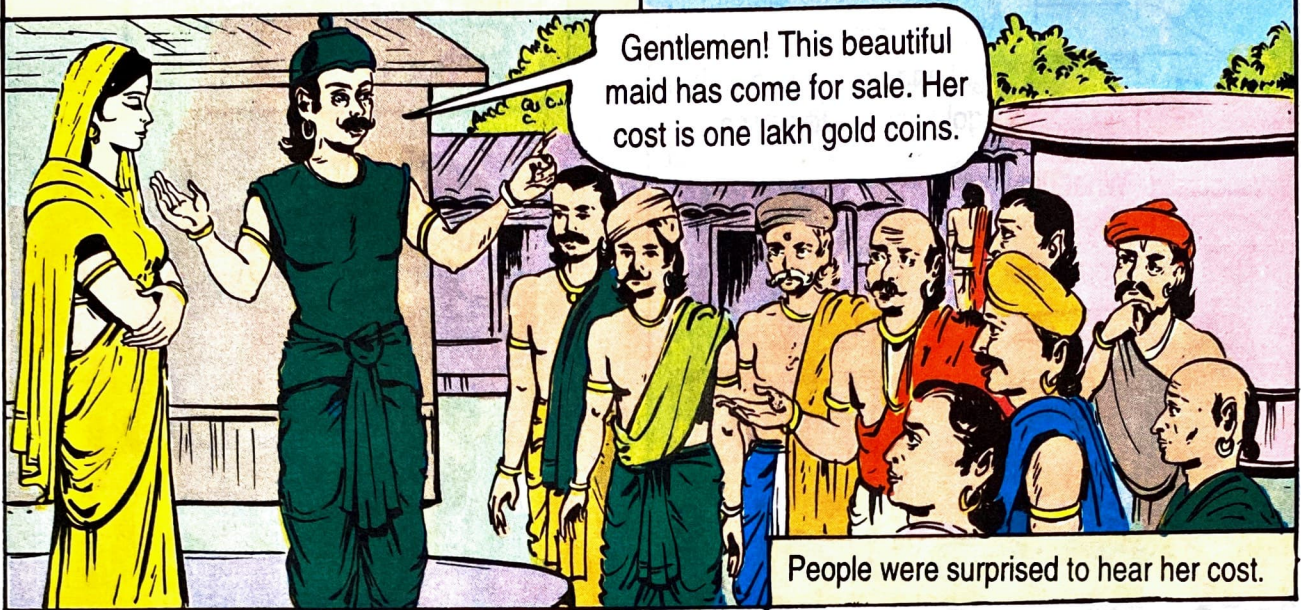
I haven't brought any wealth except a daughter.







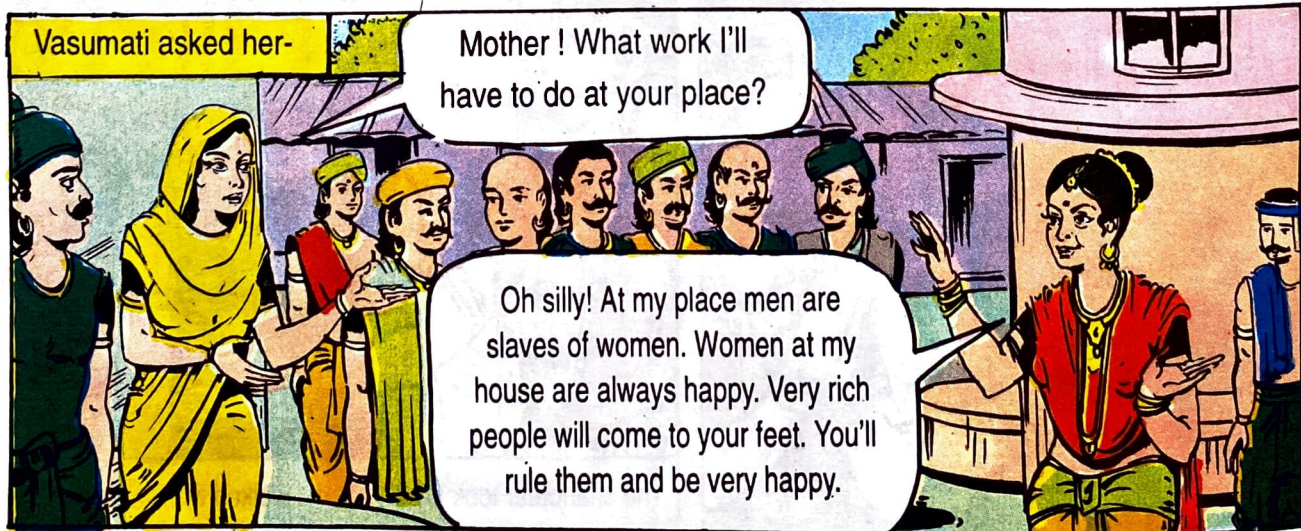
The charioteer took Vasumati and reached the maid-market, where maids were sold and bought. He stood on a raised platform and started her auction-



Then a wealthy women came there in a palenquin. She was fascinated looking at Vasumati's beauty.



Vasumati asked her-

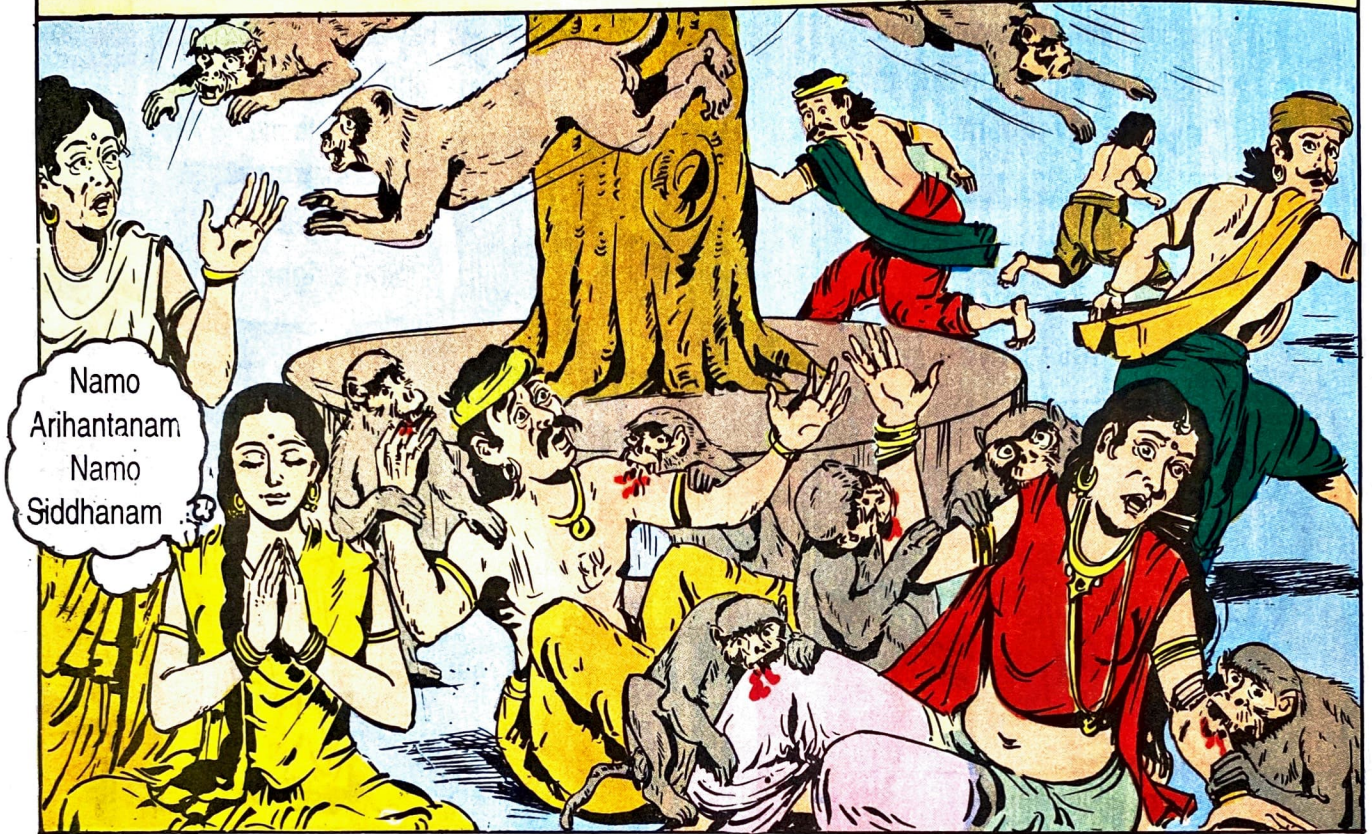








Then suddenly many monkeys attacked the servants of the prostitute from all the sides. Few monkeys started biting the prostitute severely. People were running here and there.



The prostitute was shouting very badly. Vasumati couldn't see her condition. She scolded the monkeys-

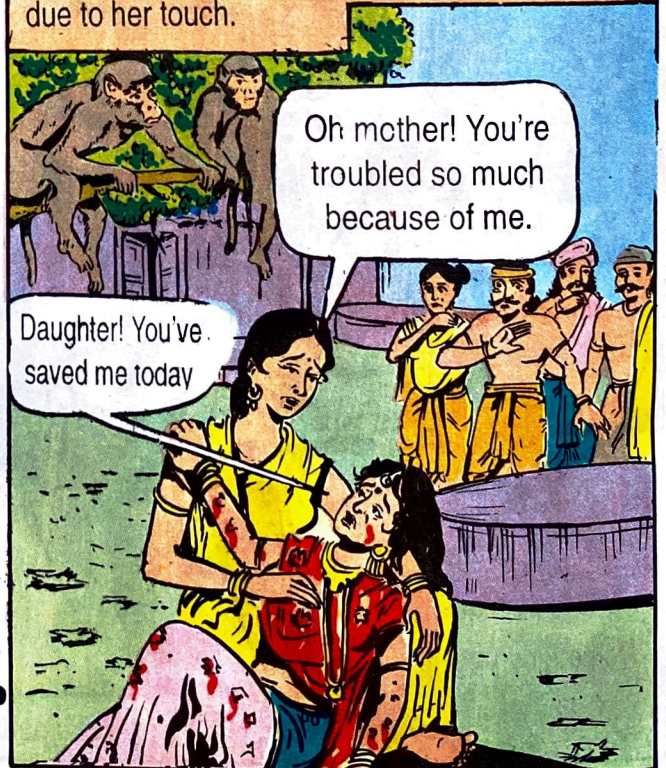
Oh help!  
Someone  
please help me

O great monkey,  
what are you doing?  
Don't bite mother.



As if monkey understood Vasumati's language  
They immediately ran away.

Vasumati came nearer and helped the prostitute. The prostitute's half of the pain disappeared just due to her touch.



Oh mother! You're  
troubled so much  
because of me.

Daughter! You've  
saved me today



The prostitute's eyes were filled with tears to hear this. She said-

Daughter, please forgive me. You're not just a woman, you're a goddess. I hate my life. I've committed only sins till today. I'll practise moral conduct from today.



Vasumati said-

Mother, don't be sad. Start a new life when the truth dawns to you.



Vasumati explained her the importance of moral conduct. The prostitute went back with her servants

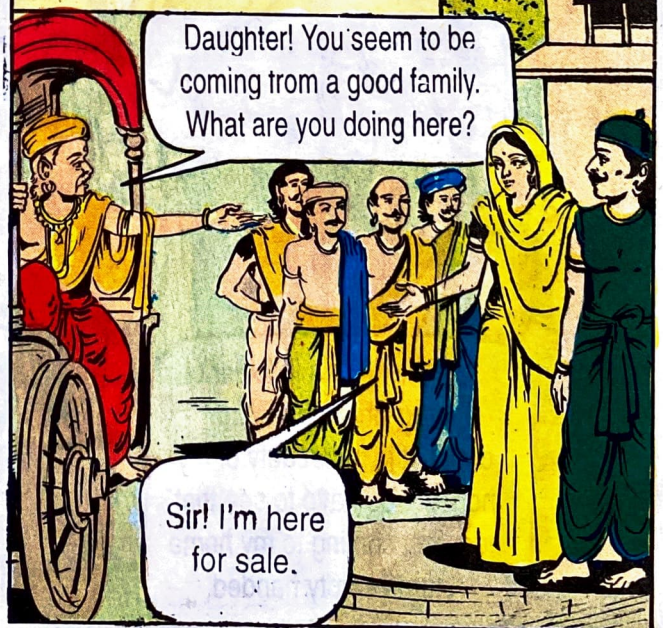
Mother! God has given you good understanding, he's great.



On the platform only the charioteer and Vasumati were left. The charioteer again started announcing her cost. Then the great merchant Dhanavah was passing from nearby. He was simple and religious at heart. Looking at Vasumati he felt affectionate towards her as a child. He asked Vasumati-

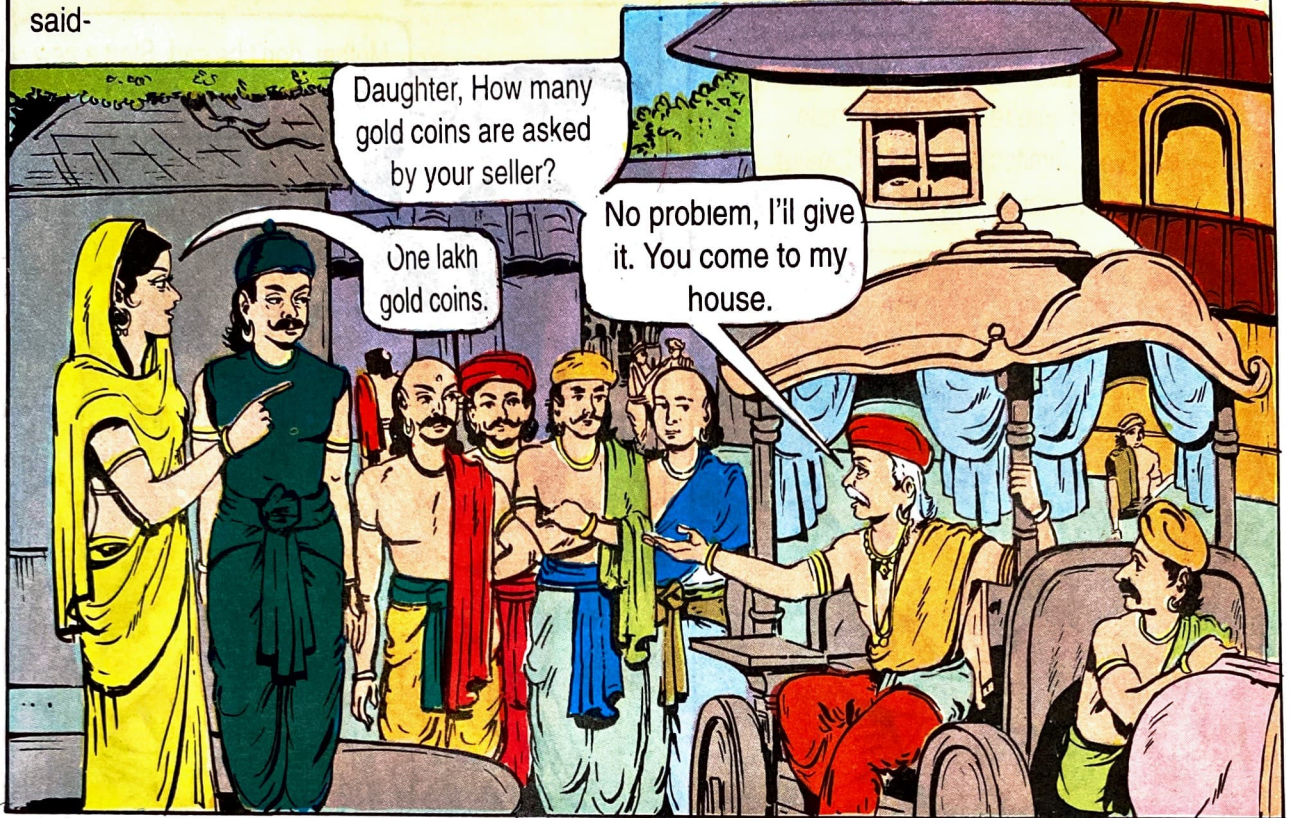
Daughter! You seem to be coming from a good family. What are you doing here?

Sir! I'm here for sale.

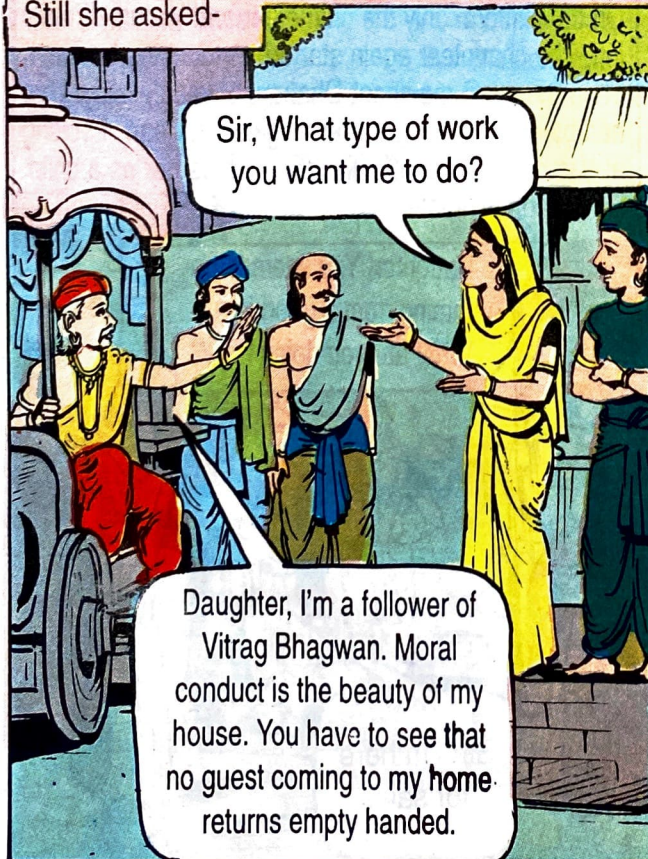




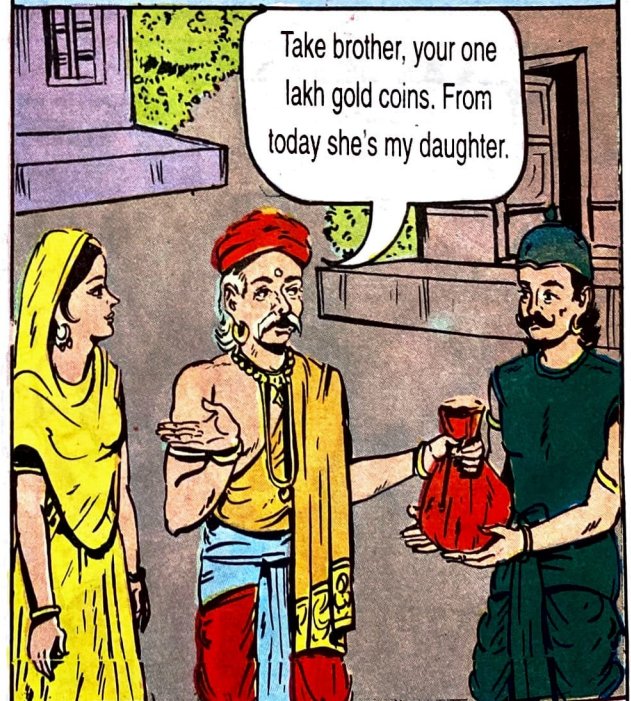
Merchant Dhanavah felt sad to hear this. He decided to free Vasumati from that maid-market. He said-



Vasumati felt the merchant was a gentleman. Still she asked-



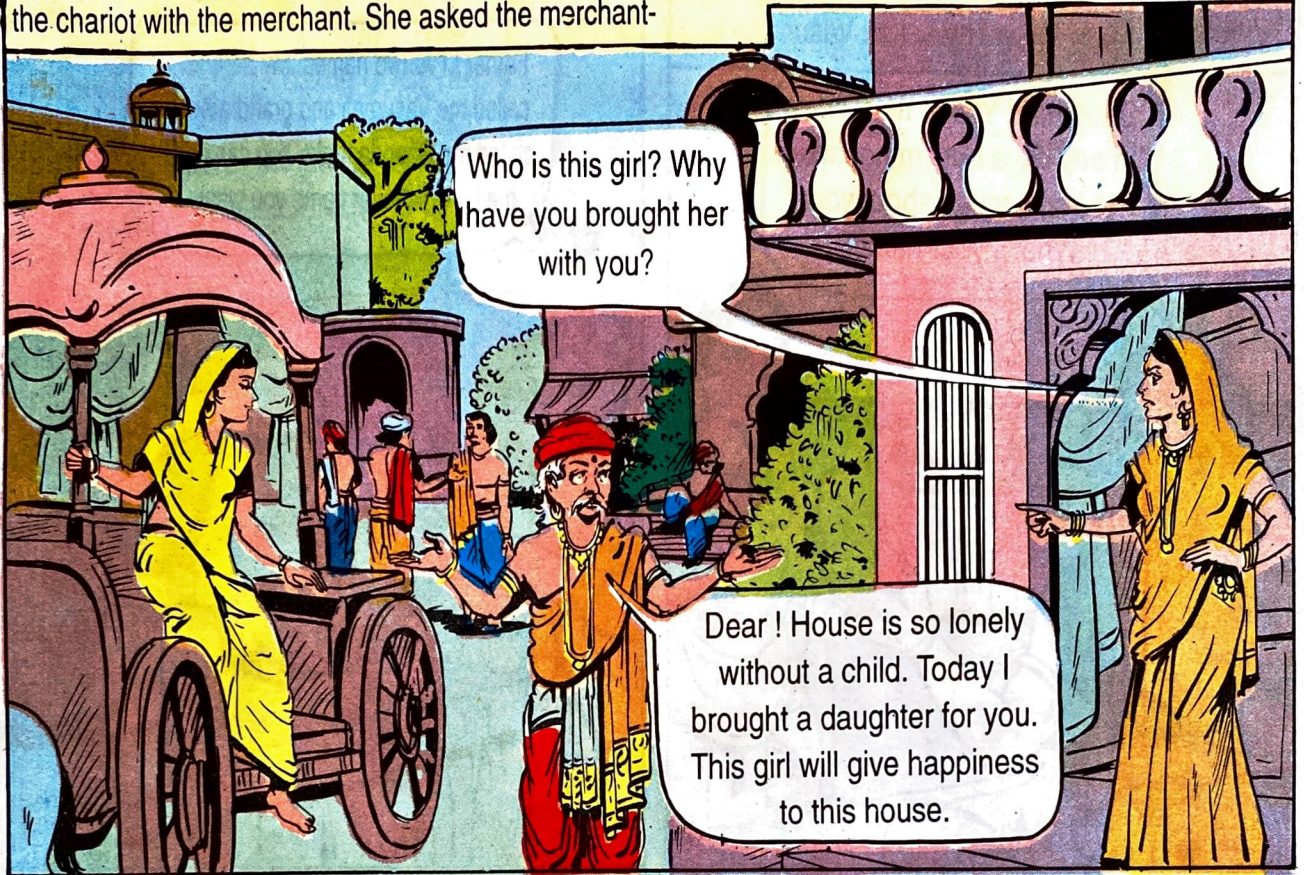
Vasumati was satisfied with the merchant's answer and got ready to go with him.



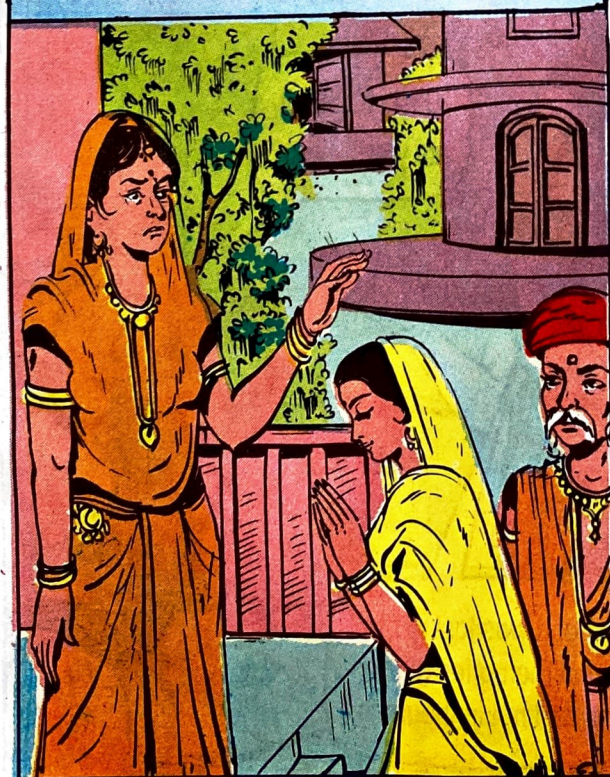
The merchant sent off the charioteer by giving one lakh gold coins and took Vasumati with him.



The merchant reached his home. There mistress Mula was startled looking at a beautiful female getting down the chariot with the merchant. She asked the merchant-



Vasumati came ahead and bowed down to the mistress Mula. Mula blessed her unwillingly.



In a very short period Vasumati could please the merchant Dhanavah and all the servants of the house by her cleverness, helping nature and good conduct.





The merchant was very happy with Vasumati's work efficiency. One day he asked Vasumati-

Daughter ! You're here since many days but I'm not able to know much about you. What's your name?

Vasumati thought for a while and said-

Father ! I've two names. My parents called me Vasumati and grandfather called me Chandanbala. You can call me by whichever name you want.

The merchant said-

Daughter ! Your nature is cool like a chandan(sandle wood), so I'll call you Chandanbala.

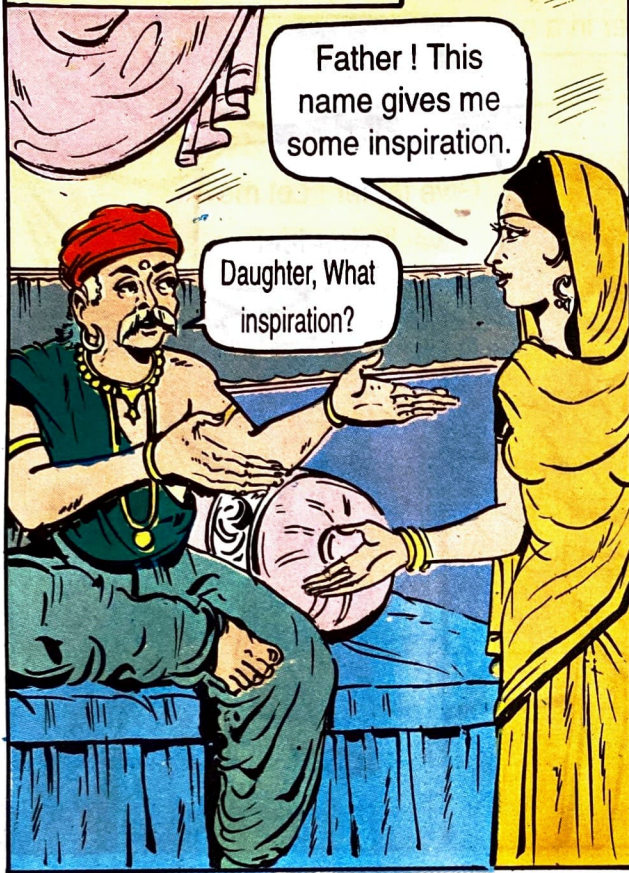
On hearing the name, Chandanbala was lost in the memory of her grandfather. Seeing her absorbed in thoughts, the merchant asked-

Daughter, What are you thinking?

Father, I was lost in the sweet memories of the past, and not in thoughts.



Vasumati told the merchant-



Father! This name gives me some inspiration.

Daughter, What inspiration?



That, however difficult the situation is whatever the trouble is, one should be at peace and cool like chandan.

Daughter you're great! Who can find quality even in the name.

After that day everyone called Vasumati as Chandanbala.

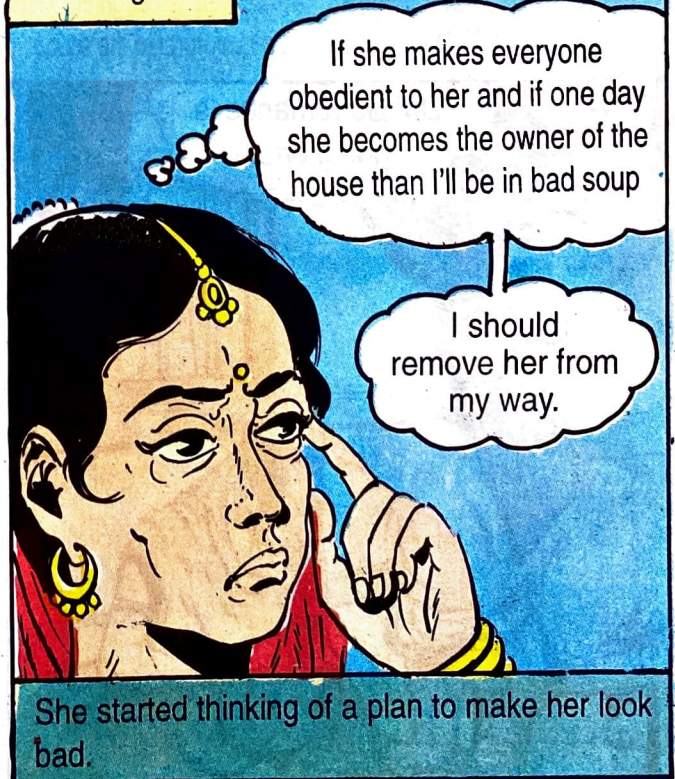
Primarily Chandanbala used to welcome guests. Remaining time she devoted to spiritual practices. Gradually she became famous.

At such a young age, such spirituality and politeness is appreciable.



She seems to be from a good family.

The mistress felt jealous seeing Chandanbala's increasing fame



If she makes everyone obedient to her and if one day she becomes the owner of the house than I'll be in bad soup

I should remove her from my way.

She started thinking of a plan to make her look bad.



One day merchant Dhanavah came home tired. Immediately he called Chandanbala.



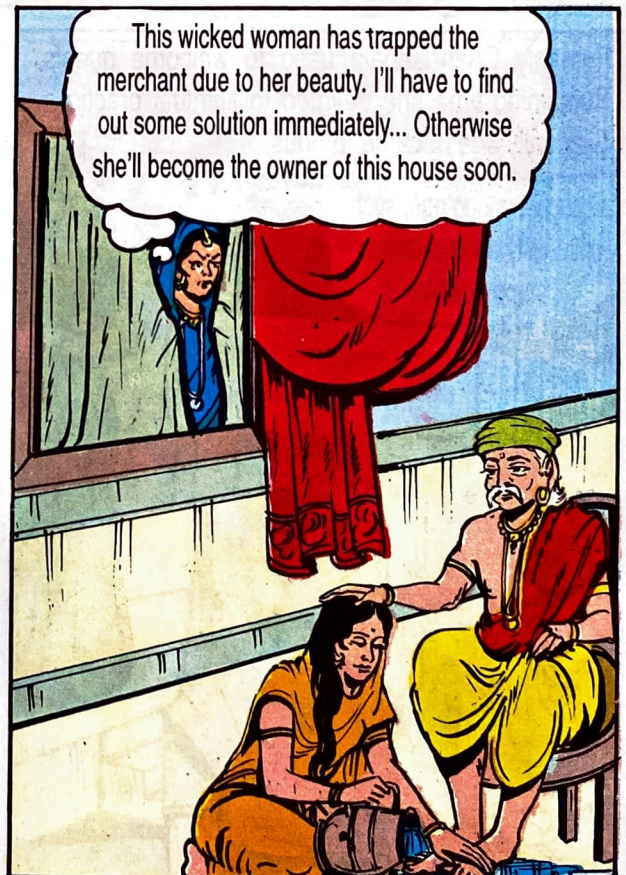
On hearing it, immediately Chandanbala brought water in a pot.



Chandanbala started washing the merchant's feet with the feeling to serve him. Her hair came on her face. The merchant took those hair on one side with love towards a daughter. Just then the mistress Mula passed by. She misinterpreted the scene.



This wicked woman has trapped the merchant due to her beauty. I'll have to find out some solution immediately... Otherwise she'll become the owner of this house soon.

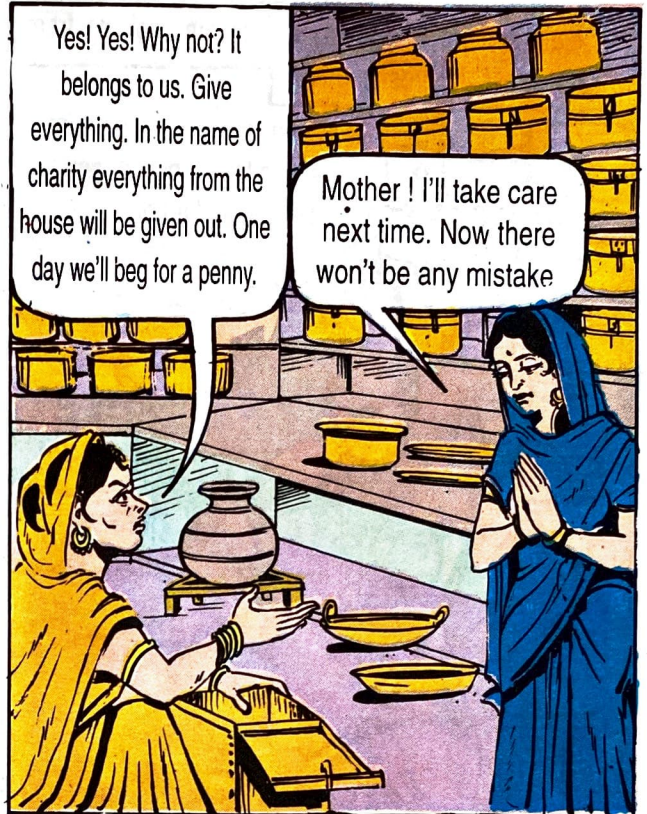




Now the mistress started finding faults in Chandanbala's work. She used to scold her for doing charity.

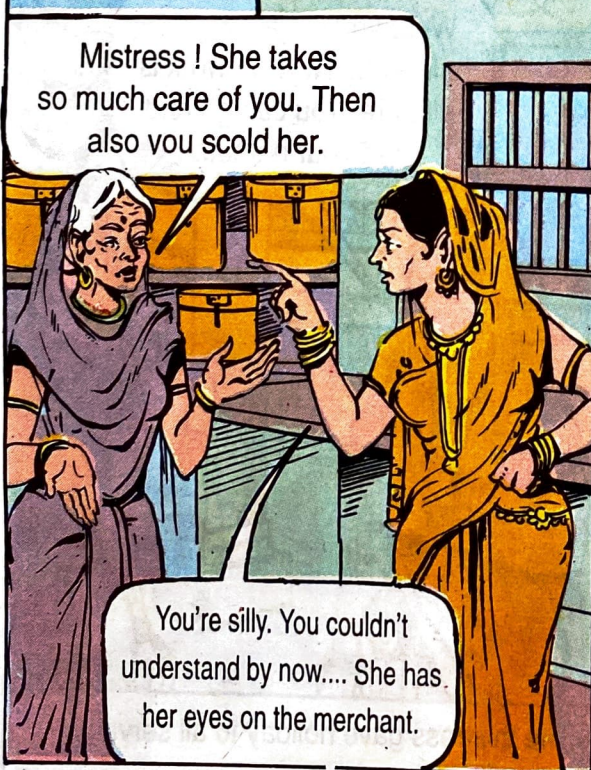


Yes! Yes! Why not? It belongs to us. Give everything. In the name of charity everything from the house will be given out. One day we'll beg for a penny.

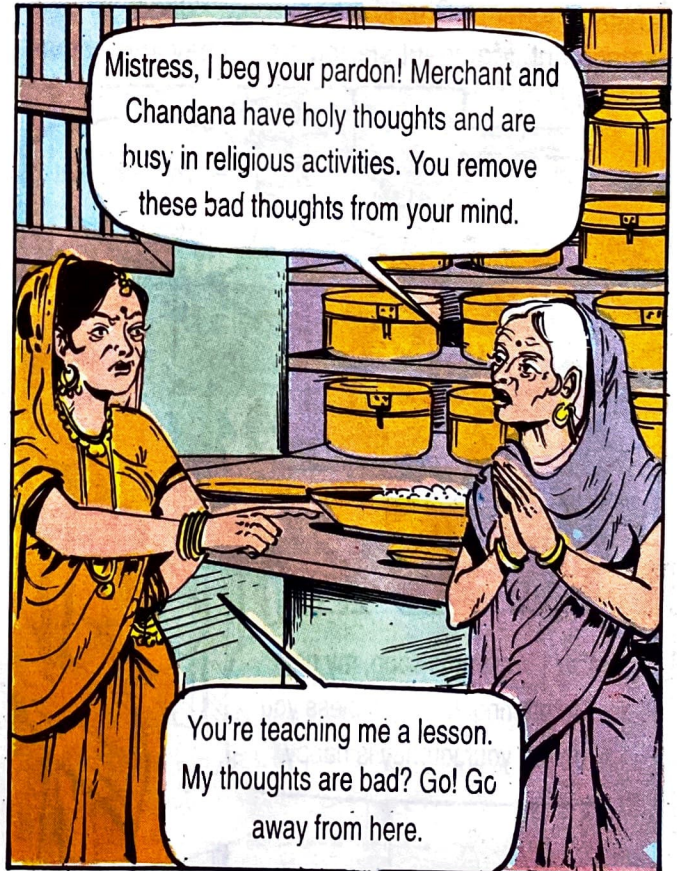


Chandanbala asked for forgiveness even when it wasn't her fault.

An old maid servant couldn't see this. She told the mistress-



Mistress, I beg your pardon! Merchant and Chandana have holy thoughts and are busy in religious activities. You remove these bad thoughts from your mind.





A maid servant went away due to the scolding from the mistress. Mistress thought-



She reached her room with these thoughts in her mind. Then the merchant came and told the mistress-



Next morning Chandana prepared food for the merchant. Merchant started his journey in Brahma-muhurt.



As soon as the merchant went, the mistress came in and told all the servants-



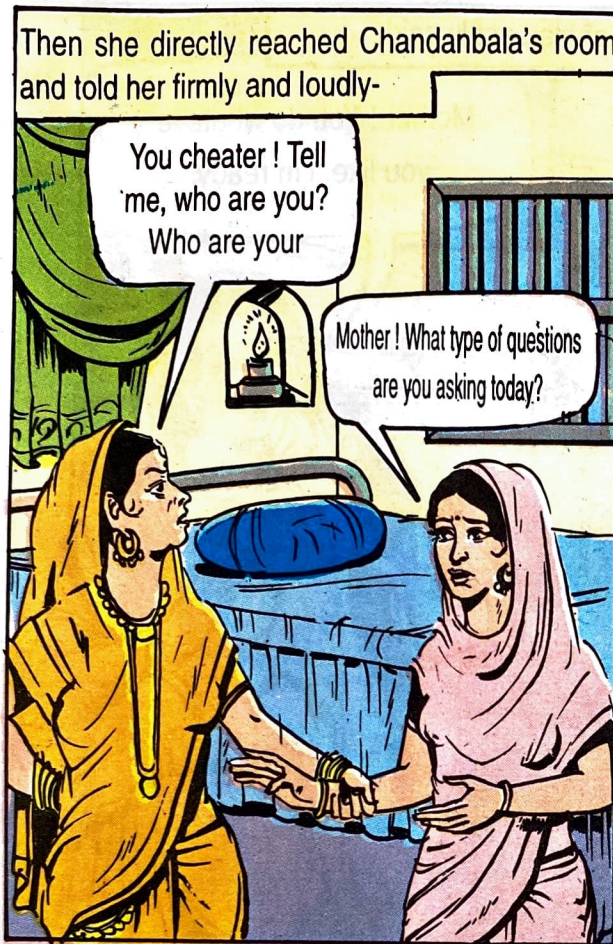
The mistress gave holiday to all servants.



Then she directly reached Chandanbala's room and told her firmly and loudly-

You cheater ! Tell me, who are you?  
Who are your

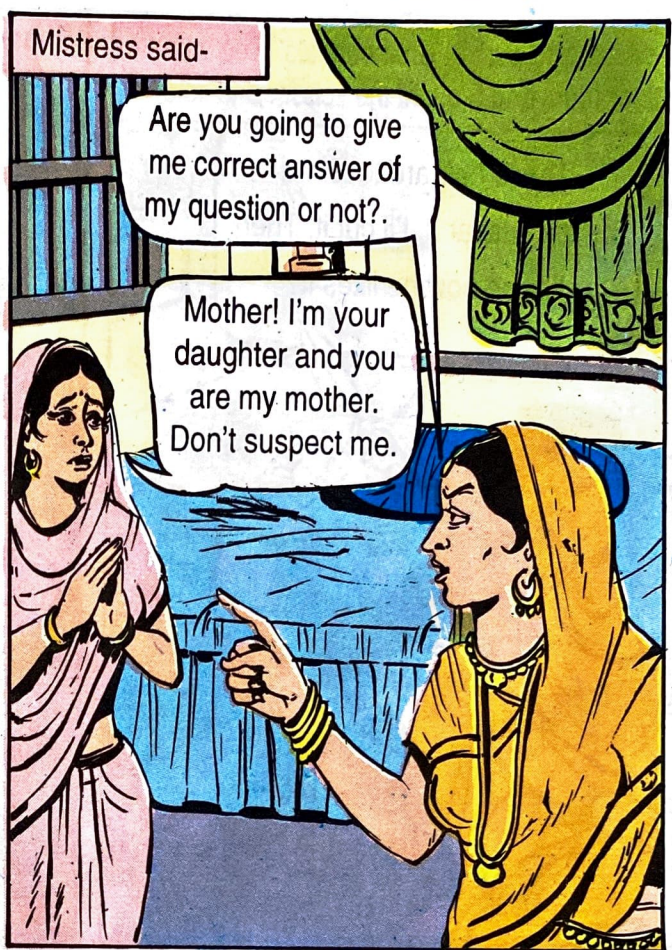
Mother ! What type of questions are you asking today?



Mistress said-

Are you going to give me correct answer of my question or not?.

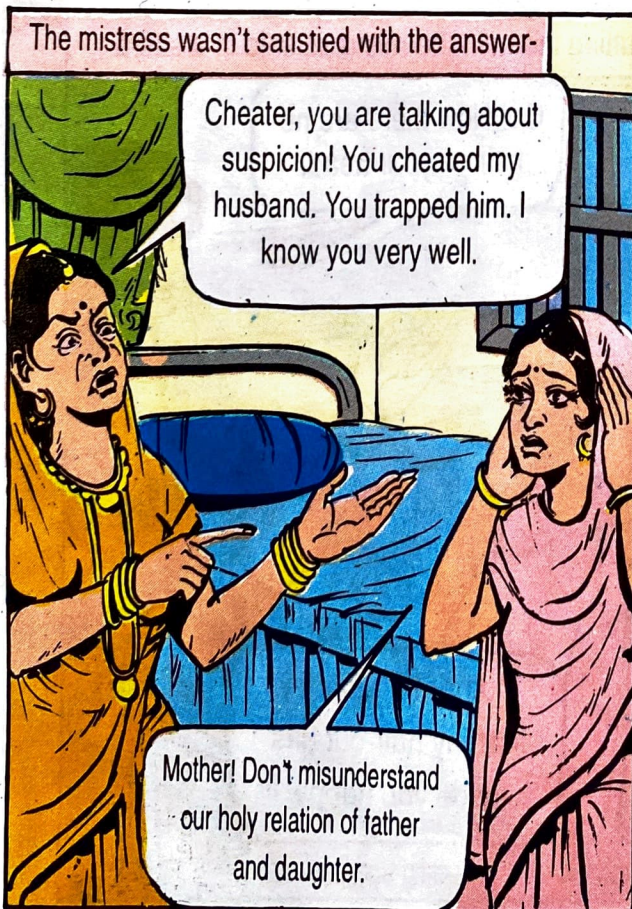
Mother! I'm your daughter and you are my mother. Don't suspect me.



The mistress wasn't satisfied with the answer-

Cheater, you are talking about suspicion! You cheated my husband. You trapped him. I know you very well.

Mother! Don't misunderstand our holy relation of father and daughter.

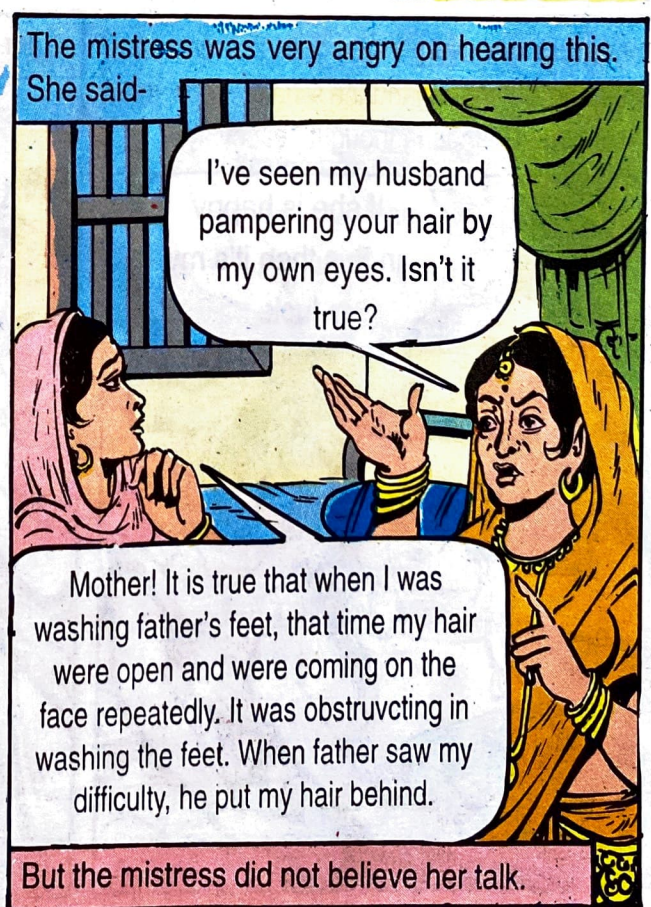


The mistress was very angry on hearing this. She said-

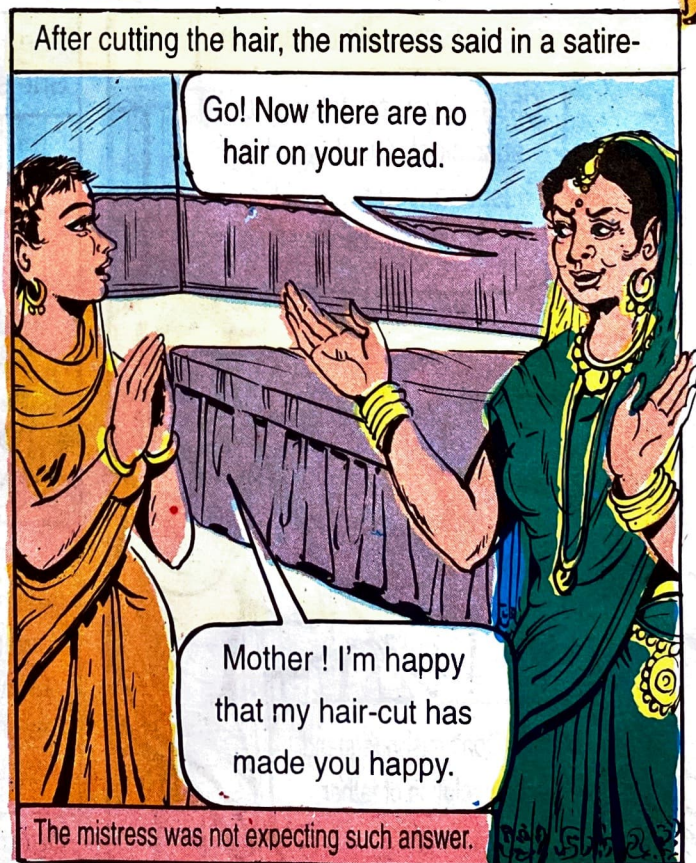
I've seen my husband pampering your hair by my own eyes. Isn't it true?

Mother! It is true that when I was washing father's feet, that time my hair were open and were coming on the face repeatedly. It was obstructing in washing the feet. When father saw my difficulty, he put my hair behind.

But the mistress did not believe her talk.







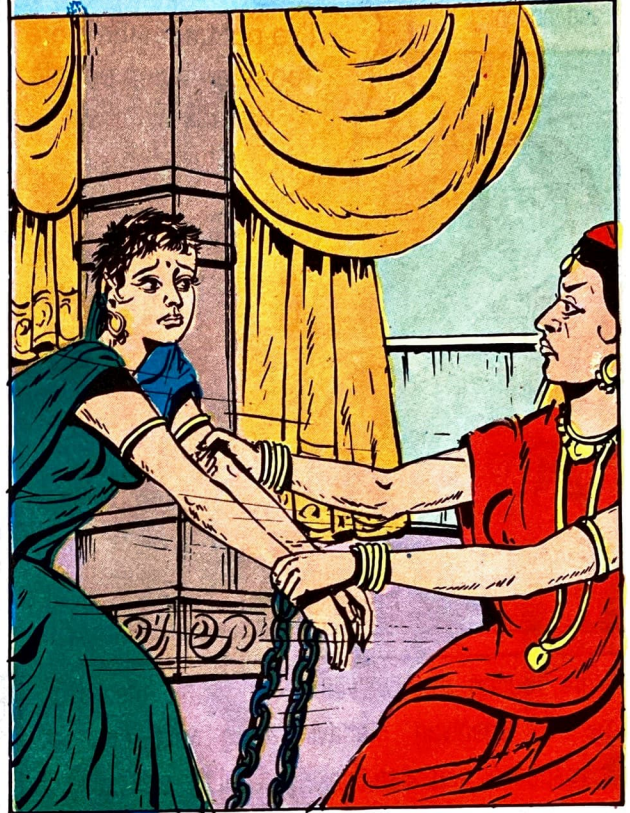


She thought it as Chandanbala's impudence, she went inside and brought two heavy chains with locks and laughing cruelly said-

Now I'll tie you with these chains and put you in the dark storeroom, then I'll get peace.



She tied Chandana's hands and feet with chains.



And she pushed her on the stairs of the storeroom. and said angrily-

Go ! Now here will be your end(samadhi).

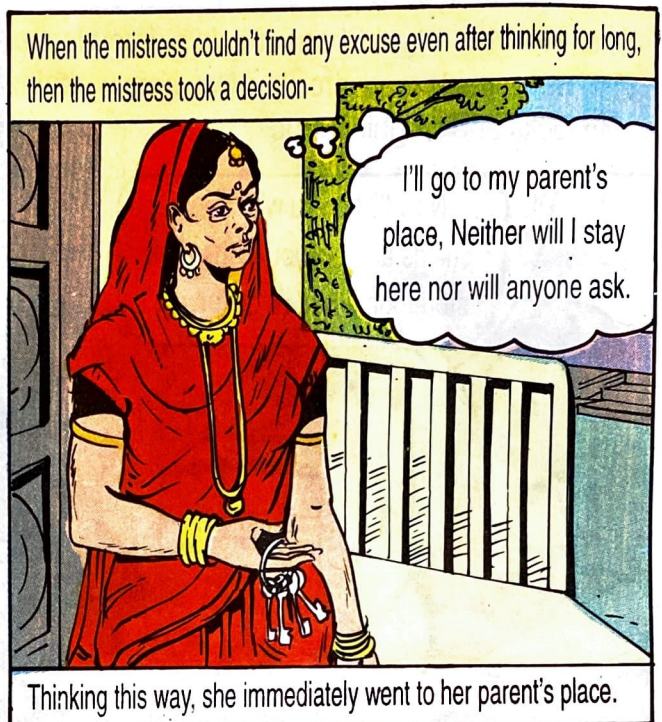


Then she came up and locked the door of the store room.

Now no one will come to know where she went.

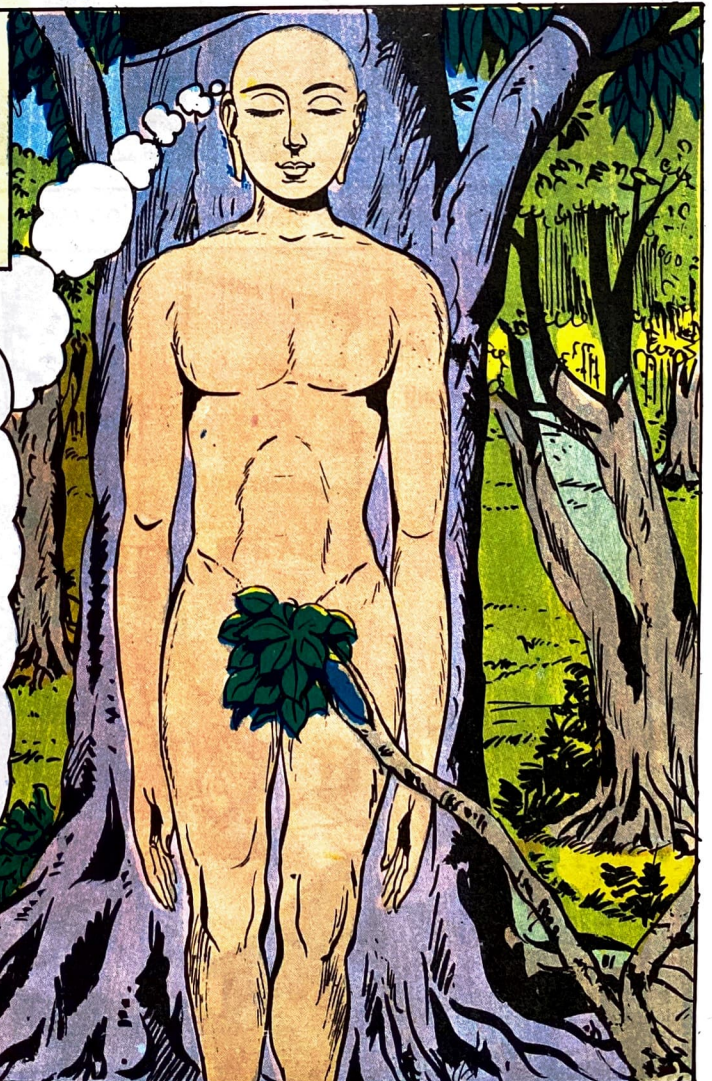






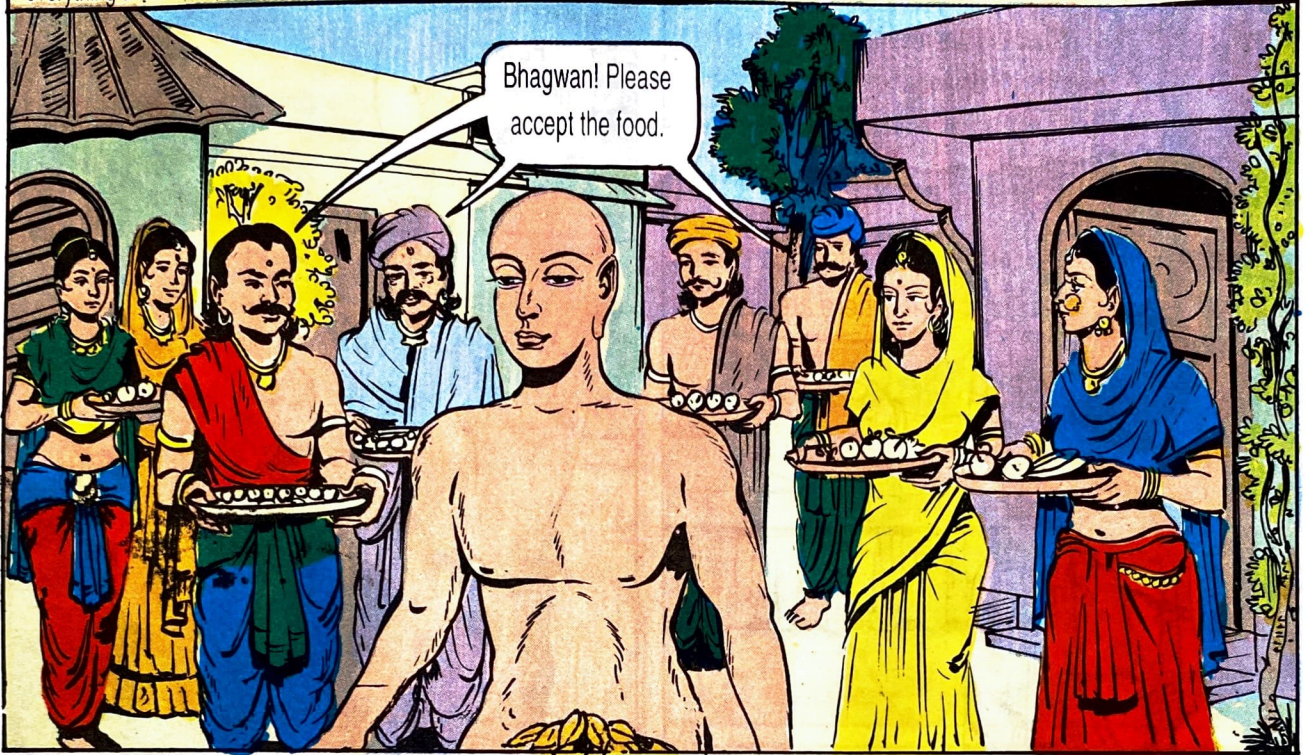
Here, during the twelveth year of his meditation period, Bhagwan Mahavir along with his self introspection was also thinking about the well being of others. Bhagwan wanted to free the women folk from slavery. Due to this feeling he took a vow which was almost impossible.

I'll accept food and water only from that girl who is a princess living a good and pure life, who is sold in the market, who has handcuffs in her hands and chain in her feet, head is bald, who's hungry and thirsty since three days, who was locked in the dark room, who's sitting at the threshold, one leg inside and the other one out, who has binnowing basket in the hand, binnowing basket has udad bakla in it, feelings of happiness on the face but tears in the eyes. I'll accept the food only if all the aspects of my vow is fulfilled, otherwise I'll do fasting for six months.

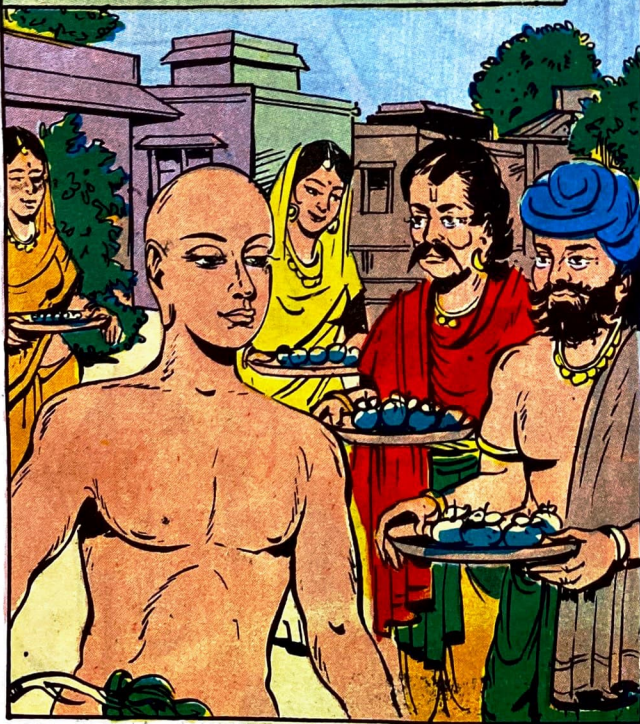




After taking this vow Bhagwan moved to many villages and cities. Followers were eager to give alms(bhiksha). They requested to take different types of food. But Bhagwan use to move ahead without taking anything.\* This kind of vow is not told to anyone. If one gets everything as,decided, then it's fine, otherwise the sadhak(one who accepts vow) remains firm on his resolution.



Bhagwan reached Kaushambi city while moving. There also he did not accept bhiksha. No one was able to understand what Bhagwan will accept? This way he spent five months and twenty five days.



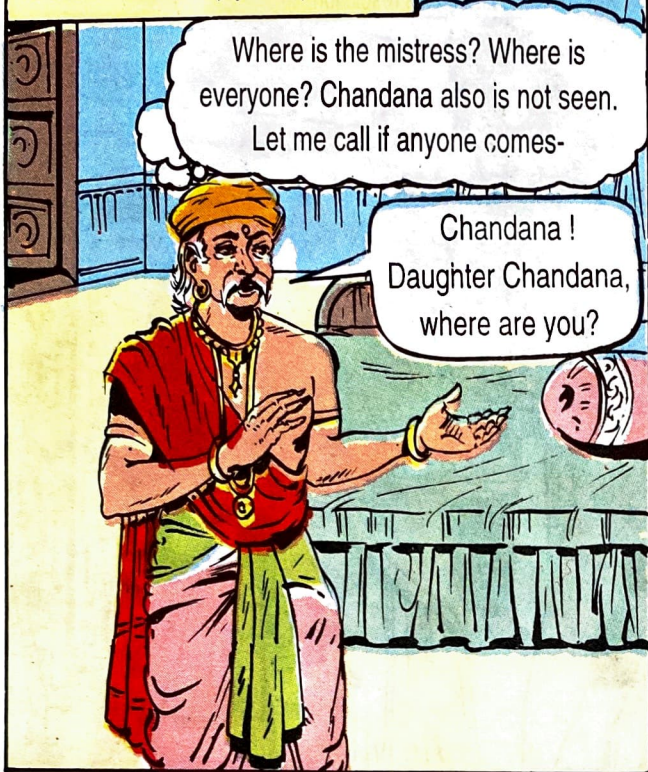
Here citizens were worried to know the vow of Bhagwan. There Chandanbala locked in the dark room was doing self meditation. She was thinking-



In this way three days passed in reciting Namokar Mantra and thinking about the result of karmas.



Merchant Dhanavah returned on the fourth day. He was worried to see the house empty and quiet.



Chandanbala locked in the dark room heard merchant's voice. She answered back-



On hearing the voice, merchant opened the dark room's door and took Chandana out. Merchant Dhanavah's eyes were filled with tears on seeing her condition.



Chandana explained the merchant-





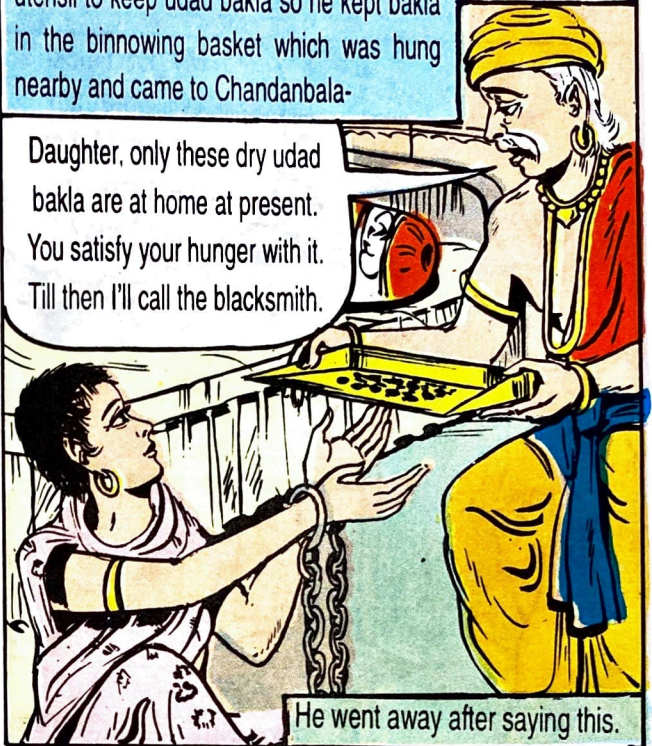
Merchant brought Chandanbaia up with support.  
Chandanbaia said-

Father, I'm very hungry.  
Give me something to eat. I  
haven't seen food and water  
since three days.



Merchant got up. He saw the kitchen was locked. Then he  
saw udad bakla kept as animal's food. He couldn't find any  
utensil to keep udad bakla so he kept bakla  
in the binnowing basket which was hung  
nearby and came to Chandanbala-

Daughter, only these dry udad  
bakla are at home at present.  
You satisfy your hunger with it.  
Till then I'll call the blacksmith.



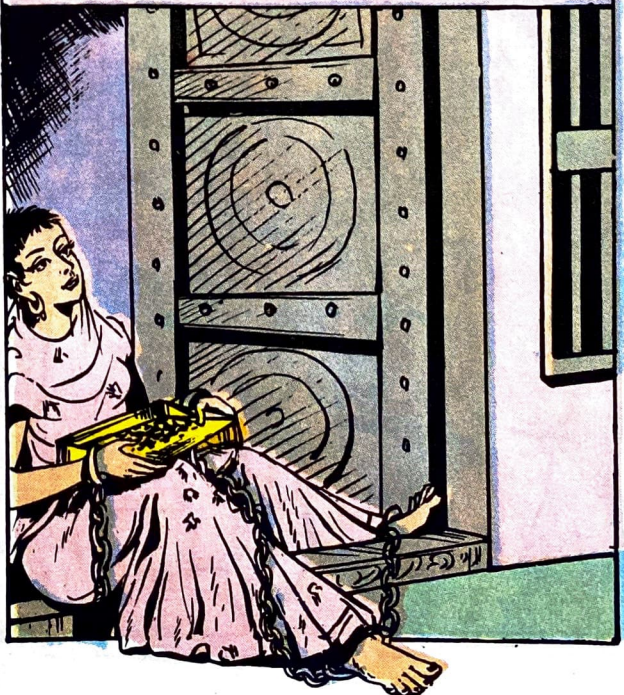
He went away after saying this.

Chandana felt-

Will it be good to eat  
without offering to any  
guest? I'll wait for any  
guest on the door.

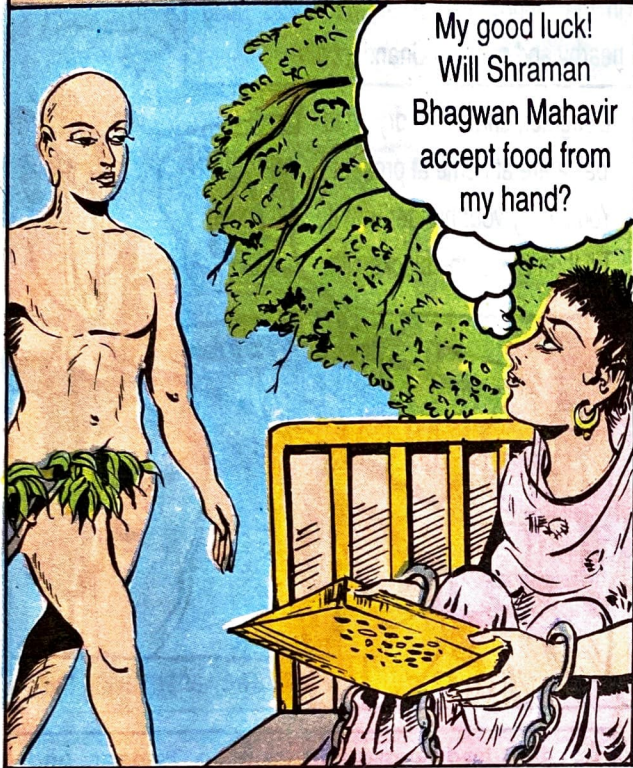


As she had weakened due to hunger and  
thirst, tied up in chains, she reached the door  
with difficulty. She was so much tired by the  
time she reached the door that she could keep  
only one feet out. She kept other leg inside and  
waited for some guest in the same position.





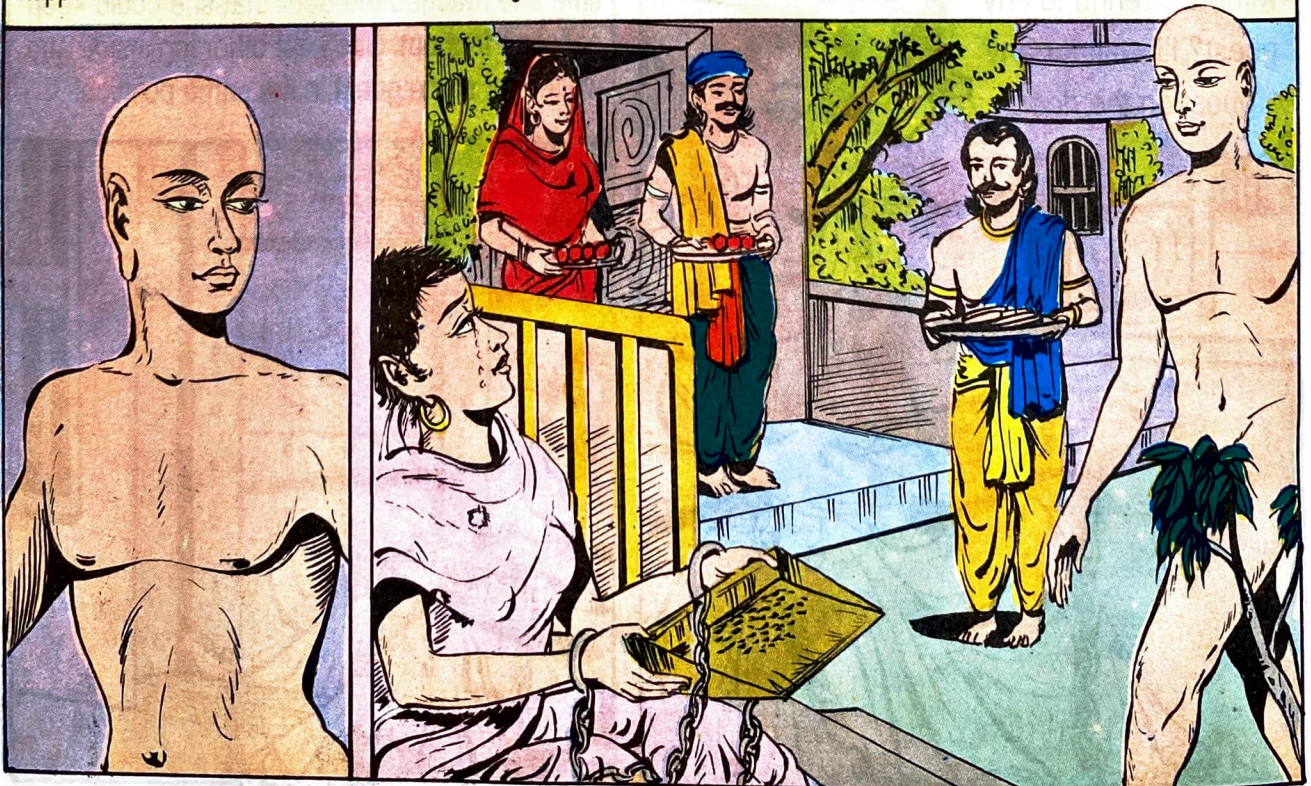
It was the second part of the day. Bhagwan Mahavir was out for the food. Chandana was very happy to see him. She thought-



When Bhagwan Mahavir saw Chandanbala, he thought all the conditions of his vow are fulfilled except tears in the eyes. Bhagwan turned back seeing no tears. As Bhagwan turned back, tears dropped from Chandana's eyes.

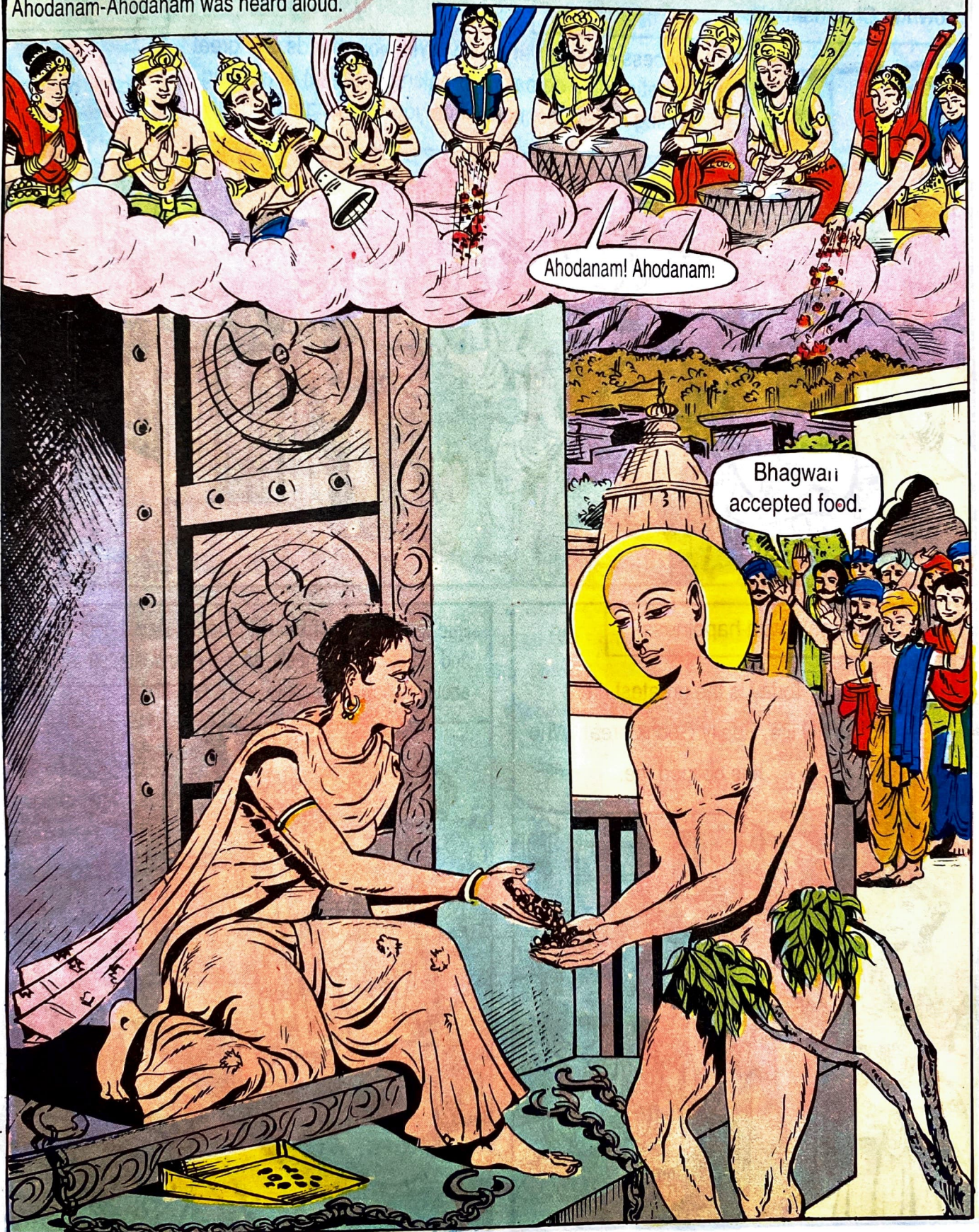


Due to the true feelings Bhagwan Mahavir returned. Chandanbala was again very happy. There were tears in her eyes and happiness on her face. All the conditions of Bhagwan's vow was fulfilled. He moved towards Chandanbala.





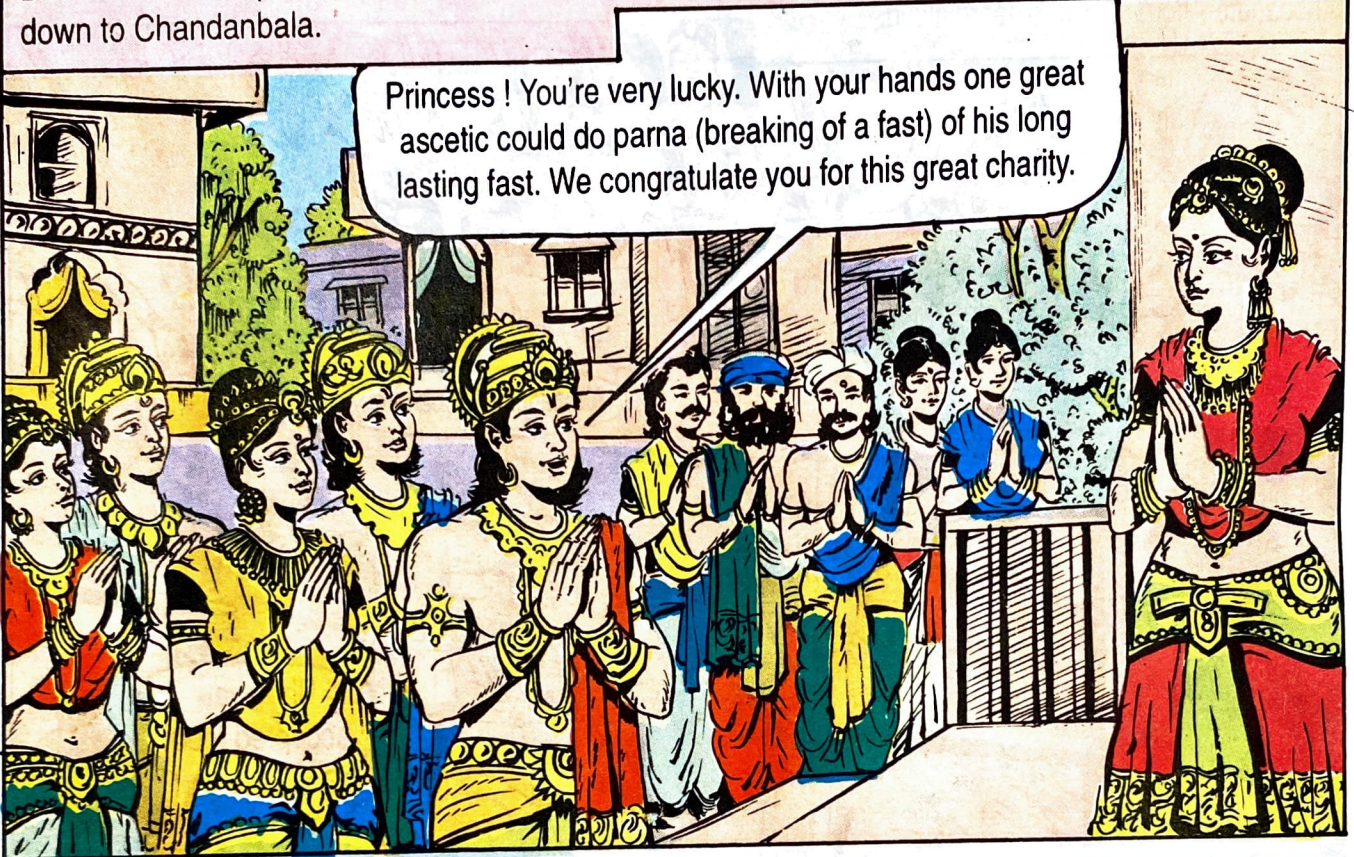
Filled with feelings of happiness, Chandanbala gave all the bakla in Bhagwan's hands. As Bhagwan accepted food Chandana's hand-cuffs and chains broke down by itself. There was music heard from the sky. Divine noise of Ahodanam-Ahodanam was heard aloud.





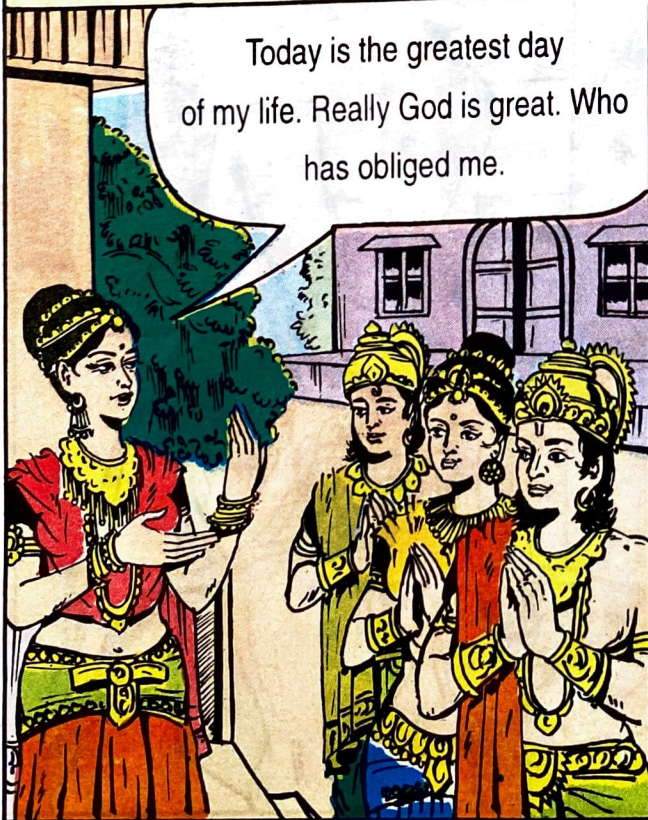
Devraj Indra along with his God's family came on earth to praise this 'Mahadan' (great charity). Due to his divine power Princess Chandanbala became more beautiful than earlier. Devraj bowed down to Chandanbala.

Princess ! You're very lucky. With your hands one great ascetic could do parna (breaking of a fast) of his long lasting fast. We congratulate you for this great charity.

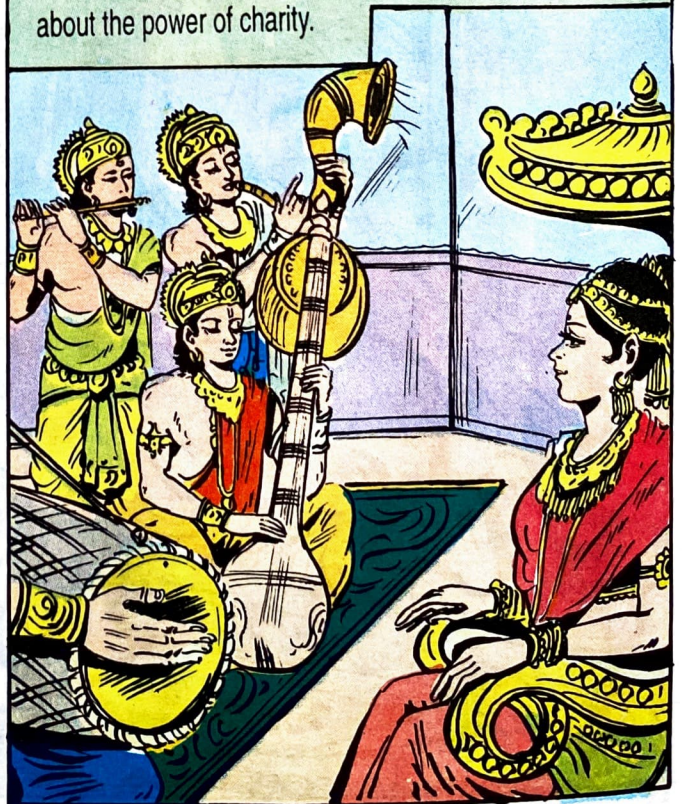


Chandanbala said with happiness-

Today is the greatest day of my life. Really God is great. Who has obliged me.



Due to the order of Devraj, Gods prepared gold throne and made Chandanbala sit on it and started singing about the power of charity.





Here, as soon as mistress Mula came to know about this news, she repented on her deeds. She started thinking-

Shame on me! That I gave severe pain to such a holy woman. I should ask for forgiveness.



She immediately returned her home and asked Chandanbala to forgive her. Chandanbala said-

Mother ! I'm obliged to you. Because of your kindness I could worship God, I could complete the vow of Bhagwan.

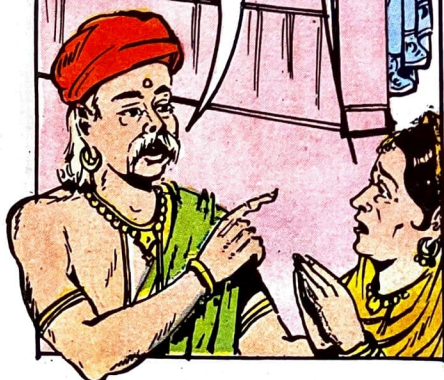


Daughter ! You are really like chandan.

Then the mistress asked her husband to forgive her.

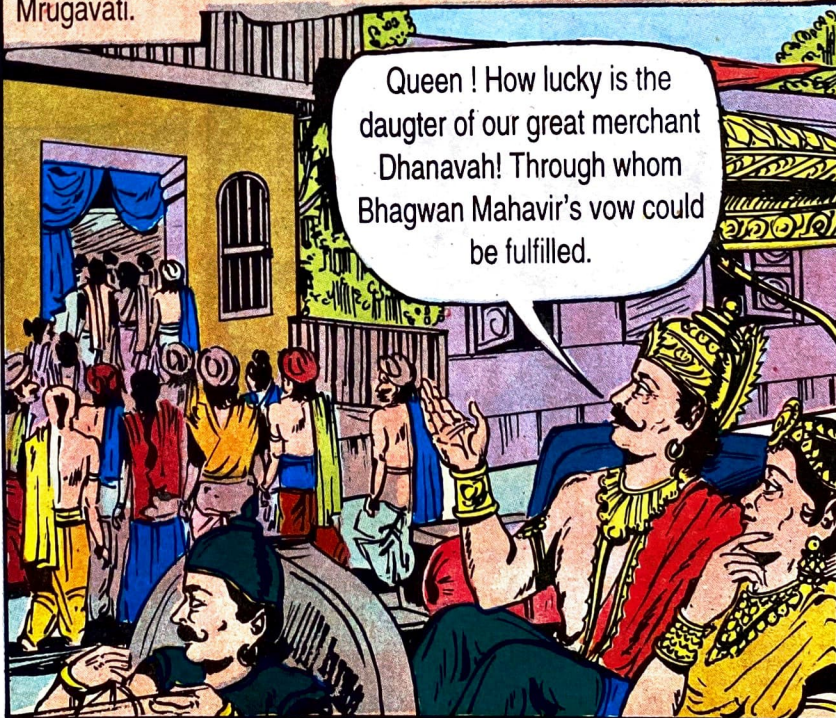
Master ! Forgive me. I've committed many sins. I repent for my deeds.

Mistress ! Now you also practice the religion with true heart like Chandana.



The news of fulfillment of Bhagwan's vow reached the royal palace. As King Shatanik heard the news, he was very happy and immediately left for the house of the merchant Dhanavah along with the Queen Mrugavati.

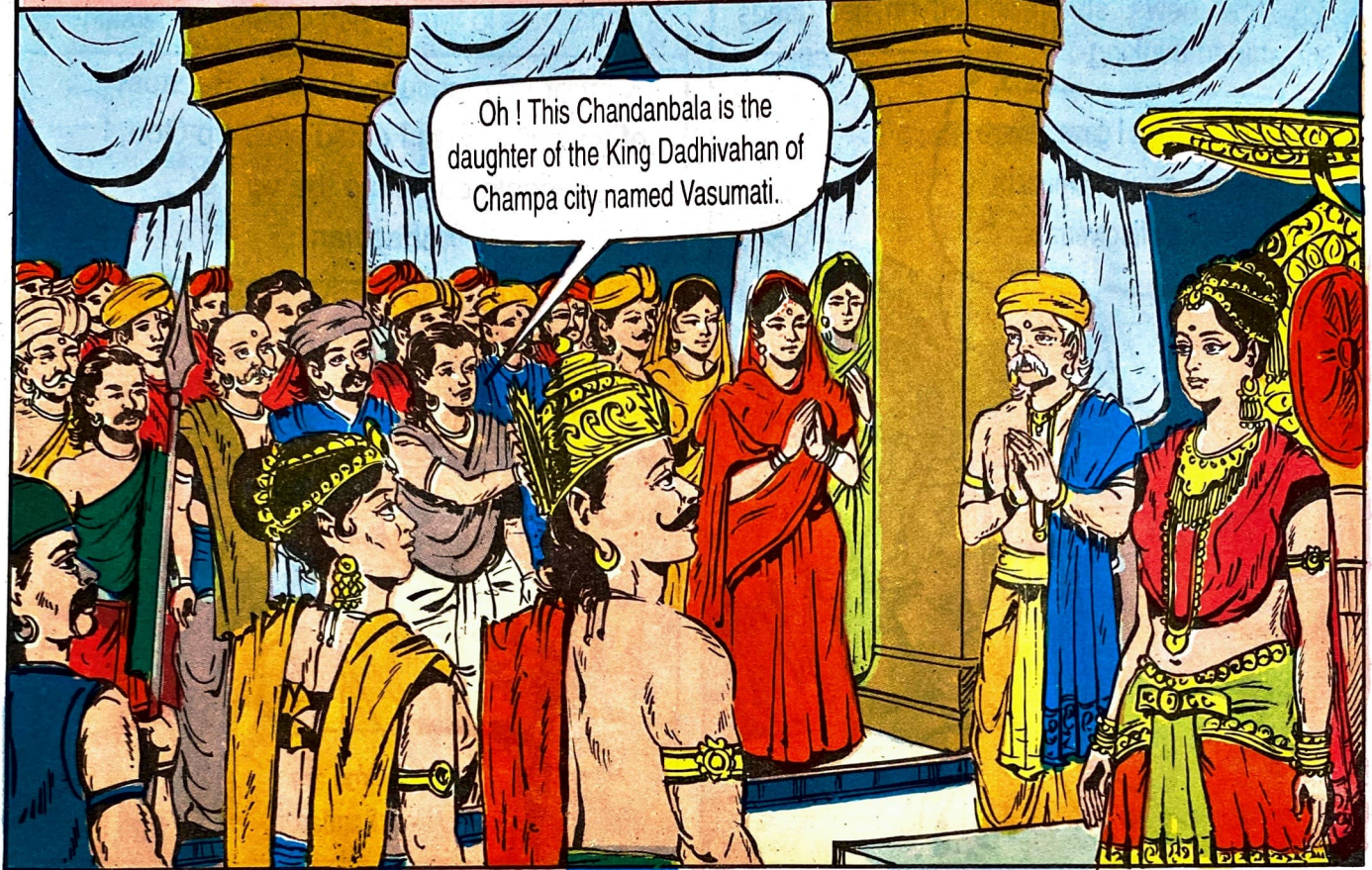
Queen ! How lucky is the daughter of our great merchant Dhanavah! Through whom Bhagwan Mahavir's vow could be fulfilled.





Servants gave way to the King. They reached near Chandanbala. Then someone from the crowd said-

Oh ! This Chandanbala is the daughter of the King Dadhivahan of Champa city named Vasumati.



As the Queen Mrugavati heard these words, she looked at Chandanbala very carefully. Then she turned to the King Shatanik and said-

Master ! She is the daughter of my sister Dharini.



Master ! I prevented you so much from the invasion on Champa city. But you didn't agree. You saw how disastrous is the result of your robbing of the Champa city. My sister's daughter had such a tough time.



Listening to this King felt sorry.



King asked Chandanbala to forgive him-

Daughter ! You had many difficulties because of me. Please forgive my mistakes and oblige me by coming to the palace with us.



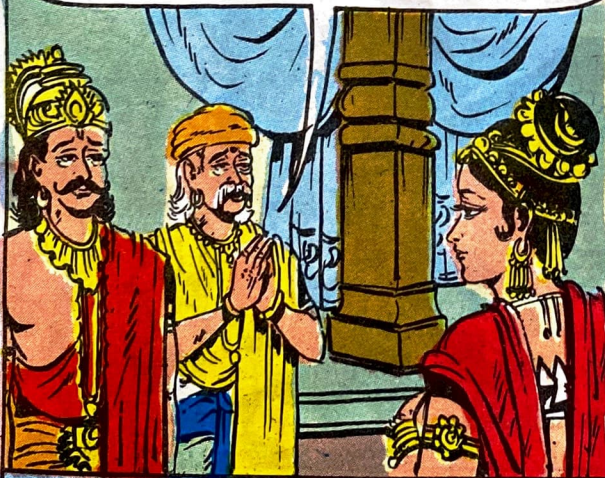
Chandanbala refused to go with them. When the king and the queen insisted too much Chandanbala said-

The merchant has given me shelter and support in my bad times. How can I forget his obligation? That's why till I've to stay here, I'll stay in his shelter.



Listening to this, the merchant's eyes were filled with tears. He said affectionately-

What are you saying, my daughter? My house has become holy with your feet's touch. Due to your 'Punya', Bhagwan Vardhman's feet also made this place holy.



King requested Dhanavah to send Chandanbala with him. Merchant Dhanavah explained Chandanbala and sent her with the King Shatanik.

Queen Mrugavati and King Shatanik brought Chandanbala with them. On Chandana's request, search for King Dadhivahan was started but he couldn't be traced. Chandanbala was waiting for Bhagwan Mahavir's 'Tirth pravartan'.



When will that good day arrive when I'll accept nunhood and uplift my soul.



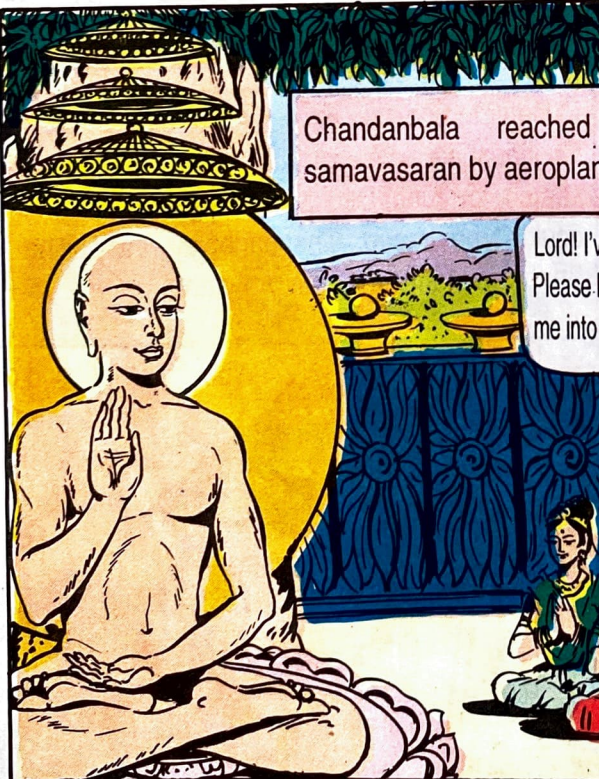
One day maid of the Queen Mrugavati gave good news-

Did you hear Princess? Bhagwan Mahavir has attained Kevalgyan. Bhagwan's Samavasaran is seen in the garden of Pavapuri.

The time has come to fulfill my wish. Now I'll immediately go to the Lord's feet and accept nunhood and make my life meaningful...

Then two gods appeared with aeroplane-

Princess ! Devraj Indra has sent aeroplane to fulfill your wish. Come on, Bhagwan Mahavir's samavasaran is at Pavapuri.



Chandanbala reached Bhagwan Mahavir's samavasaran by aeroplane with lots of happiness.

Lord! I've come to your feet. Please bless me by initiating me into your order as a nun.



In this samavasaran, hundreds of women including Chandanbala and many intelligent people including Indrabhooti accepted monkhood at Bhagwan's feet. Bhagwan established four tirthas. Chandanbala became the leader of Bhagwan's shramani sangh and showed the path of women's welfare to the world.

THE END



**Q. 27 What is a mantra and what do the mantras 'Om', 'Hrim', Arhum mean?**

**Ans.** A mantra is a mystical energy encased in a sound structure. Every mantra contains within its vibrations a certain power. Upon concentration and repetition of a given mantra, its energy is elicited and takes form. A mantra is so called because it is achieved by the mental process. Any word that helps to control the mind is called mantra. 'Man' means mind, 'tra' means to control.

The mantra Om Hrim Arhum are explained in short as following—

### **AUM**

Aum or Om means completeness; it is really a symbolic word, meaning infinite, the perfect, the eternal. The very sound is complete, representing the wholeness of all things.

Aum is the seat of the five benedictions, salutations or supreme beings. The word is made up of five letters, i.e., a + a + a + u + m = Aum in Sanskrit.



The first letter 'a' is for Arihanta. The second letter 'a' is for Ashariri without body (Siddha). The third letter 'a' is for Acharya. The fourth letter 'u' is for Upadhyaya. The fifth letter 'm' is for Muni. In this way all the five letters put together constitute Aum or Om.

The tradition has it that when the Arihanta (Jina) attains absolute knowledge or omniscience, all the parts of Arihanta emanates a loud sound—a mega utterance of 'Aum' called the Devine Sound. It is an involuntary, spontaneous, melodious sound which emanates from the Tirthankara because of the catalytic presence of the positive vibrations of the people. Thus the power of purity and silence of heart is evident from the above phenomena.

### **HRIM**

It is a seed mantra. It is a mystical symbol—representing the invisible sound, infinity and divine energy of 24 Tirthankaras. Meditating on Hrim, one experiences sublimating energy of Tirthankaras.



### **ARHUM**

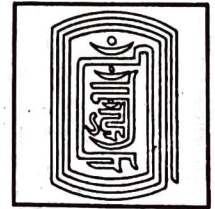


This mantra is pregnant with the vowels and consonants used in Sanskrit alphabets. The first vowel in Sanskrit alphabet is 'a' and the last consonant is 'h'.

In this mantra all the sounds of vowels and consonants are mystically present. So meditating on Arhum one meditates on all the vowels and consonants. That is the importance of this mantra.

### **AUM HRIM ARHUM**

It is an ancient miraculous supreme mantra among all the mystical seed mantras. Even the Kundalini (hidden serpent-like dormant energy) can be raised by meditating on this mantra. Ultimately, with the help of this mantra, its vibrations and its experiences, one can liberate oneself from the cycle of birth and death.





**Q. 28** Is there any another powerful mantra which create good feeling in ourself and emanate vibrations of blessing and benediction?

**Ans.** Jainism is enriched with the power of prayers and mantras that go back to thousands of years ago. One of the mantras recited by all the aspirants is the ego surrendering mantra called the "Chattari Mangalam". As the Navkar Mahamantra is recited in the same manner this mantra is also recited. When we start this mantra with the lofty feeling of surrender we unburden ourselves from the load of ego and move in the world of peace and serenity.

Reciting this mantra with devotion instills a feeling of benediction and humbleness in the hearts of the devotees. Every endeavor commenced with the ambience of auspiciousness brings auspiciousness in life.

The words in the mantra are recited by self-realized saints and seers over and over again thus energizing each syllable with their utterances. When this mantra is recited with right understanding of meaning, pronounciation and correct intonation it is more effective and powerful.

If one makes a practice of reciting this mantra daily and ponder over its meaning, wholesome thoughts naturally begin to blossom in the consciousness, while unwholesome ones gradually reduce and finally disappear. Visualise pure energy of all the Siddhas (perfect souls) showering blessings upon us and healing all the ailments that bring pain and suffering to mankind. This mantra is recited to forgo all the day's tension, stress and demand in the presence of the liberated souls.

### Stanza One

*chattari mangalam, arihanta mangalam, siddha mangalam, sahu mangalam,  
kevali pannato dhammo mangalam*

Four auspicious energies are showering blessings upon us.

Victorious Ones who have overcome all inner enemies are blessing us.

Liberated Souls are blessing us. Renunciates dedicated to Truth are blessing us.

Pure Teachings uttered by Omniscient Ones are blessing us.

### Stanza Two

*chattari loguttama, arihanta loguttama, siddha loguttama, sahu loguttama,  
kevali pannato dhammo loguttamo*

Four auspicious energies are supreme in the universe.

Arihantas are supreme in the universe, Siddhas are supreme in the universe.

Sadhus are supreme in the universe.

Pure Teachings uttered by Omniscient Ones are supreme in the universe.

### Stanza Three

*chattari saranam pavajjami, arihante saranam pavajjami,  
siddhe saranam pavajjami, sahu saranam pavajjami,  
kevali pannatam dhammam saranam pavajjami,*

In four blessed protections I take refuge.

In Victorious Ones who have overcome  
all inner enemies I take refuge.

In Liberated Souls I take refuge.

In Renunciates dedicated to Truth I take refuge.

In Pure Teachings uttered by Omniscient Ones I take refuge.





The soul is continually transmigrating in this Circle of World



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